

Making the Most of Opportunities Notes

Philippians 1:12-18

Rev. Brian Bill

January 25-26, 2025

Main Point: Since the gospel changes everything, it must change everything about us.

Three Ways to Find Joy.

1. See your problems as a _____ for the gospel.
 - The word “brothers” is a term of _____.
 - The word means “from the same _____.”
 - It reminds believers that we are part of the same _____ family and we’ve all been born again the same way.
 - The phrase “what has happened to me” could be translated literally as “the things _____ me.”
 - The word “advance” is a military term, meaning “to strike forward or make _____ into a new territory.”
 - It referred to engineers who went ahead of the army to cut a road through a forest.
 - For many of us, we see our trials and difficulties as _____.
 - Paul’s imprisonment, and everything else that happened to him, gave him an _____ he would not otherwise have had, and was an avenue for the gospel to advance.
 - This passage is teaching us that when we’re in an adverse situation, we should pray, “God, use this problem as a platform for Your purposes.”
 - The ultimate purpose was the “_____ of the gospel.”
 - When we trust in God’s providence, we’ll see how He will use our problems for His purposes.
 - The “imperial guard” was made up of elite, hand-chosen highly trained soldiers.
 - Let’s look on our circumstances as God-given _____ for the furtherance of the Gospel and rejoice at what God is going to do instead of complaining about what God did not do.
 - Be a _____, not a victim.
2. View your responses to problems as a way to _____ Christians.
 - When the believers in Rome heard how Paul viewed his problems as part of God’s purpose and how he made the sharing of the gospel his goal, they became more _____ (vs. 14).
 - Persecuted Christians inspire courage by showing their faith, love, and hope even in the face of _____ and persecution.

- The word “speak” here is not the word for “preach” but the term for ordinary regular everyday _____, where we just converse naturally about what Christ has done in our lives.

3. _____ anytime the gospel is preached.

- Paul was so focused on the gospel that he was able to look past another preacher’s _____, as long as the message of Christ was getting out (vs. 15).
- Most believers were motivated by _____ and knew that Paul was proclaiming the good news.
- The phrase “selfish ambition” was used of those who work for _____.
- The word “pretense” refers to an outward show, which means people can be saved even when Christ is preached _____.
- We must never _____ doctrine or water down the gospel (Galatians 1:9).
- You might disagree with someone, or even question their motives, but if Jesus is truly being preached, and people are getting saved, then we need to _____.