

Rising Above the Circumstances

Today's Message

My circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel. Phil. 1:12 NASB

1. Trust

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,¹³ so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the praetorian guard and to everyone else,¹⁴ and that most of the brothers and sisters, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.¹⁵ Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from goodwill;¹⁶ the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;¹⁷ the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking that they are causing me distress in my imprisonment.¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice. Phil. 1:12-18 NASB

2. Rely on

Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope. Phil. 1:18b-20a NASB

■ The prayers of God's people

Pray for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel. Eph. 6:18 NIV

■ The provision of God's Spirit

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. Acts 16:6 NIV

■ The expectation of hope

We wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13 NIV

3. Understand

I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. Phil. 1:20b NASB

If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. Mt. 16:24-25 NLT