

Paul can maintain joy, in all circumstances, by staying focused on the gospel and the glory of Christ.

1. Focus on putting the Gospel First.

A). God's Plan is being Accomplished (v12)

B). People are hearing the Gospel (v13)

C). People are speaking the Gospel (v14)

Matthew 28:19-20

2. Focus on God's Glory more than my own.

A). Check yourself before you wreck yourself (v15-17)

B). Rejoice when Christ is proclaimed (v18)

“The overarching point of this passage is that God, in his gracious sovereignty, turns even prison and bad motives into the advancement of the gospel. “

John Piper

1. What factors may cause people to lose their joy in their circumstances?
2. Does Philippians 1:12 encourage you? How so?
3. Why should Phil 1:12 give us added incentive to speak the gospel to someone?
4. In what ways can you “Put the gospel first” in your relationships?
5. Why is it easier for us to be courageous in physical ways than in speaking the gospel to someone who is spiritually lost?
6. What stops us from really sharing the Good News with the people we are “Chained” too in life?
7. What most important to Paul: motive or message? Why?
8. Do we love Christ’s glory more than our own?
9. How could Paul rejoice and tell others to rejoice even though he was in prison? How does his example impact you?
10. Do you see opportunities for application in your own life?