

15. These people were preaching the same gospel as Paul but their motive was wrong. What was Paul's response when people preached a different gospel? (Eg. Galatians 1.6-9 & 1 Timothy 6.3-6.)

16. Why is the preaching of the gospel a reason for rejoicing? How can we make sure we get plenty of rejoicing for this same reason at St James?

## Pray

Continue to pray for the Lancashire Festival of Hope from 21st to 23rd September. Pray that even at this late stage people would take the opportunity to invite others along and that the Lord would prompt people to go and so the gospel would be advanced.

Pray for those whether in local churches, or of international reputation like Franklin Graham, who preach the gospel, that they would remain faithful in what they preach, in their motives for preaching and in their own lives.

Pray for Yorkshire Camps and for Andy and Hannah Peace as they lead the work at Netherside Hall. Give thanks for God's provision for the work and pray for our children from Crew and others going on the taster day on 29th September.

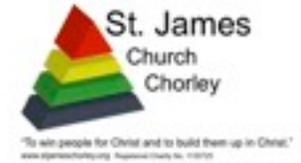
*David Phillips,  
September 2018*

# Philippians

## Study 2 :

### The Advance of the Gospel

#### Philippians 1.12-18



## Seeing the big picture

### Read Philippians 1.12-14

1. (v12) What do we learn in this letter about some of the difficult things that had happened to Paul? (Eg. 1.7 & 2.27-28)

2. What can you remember of things that had happened to Paul between when he was last in Philippi and when he arrived in Rome? (That is between Acts 20.6 & 28.16.)

3. How might what had happened to Paul seem to be a disaster for the gospel?

4. We often see situations where Christian workers seem to be hindered in their work by opposition or sickness, and some die when they seem to have years ahead of them. How do you react when you hear such news or come across such situations?

5. What had happened might have seemed disaster but Paul says in verse 12 it has “really served” to advance the gospel. What is the first way we see this happening in verse 13 and why do you think it did? (Remember also what happened when Paul was imprisoned in Philippi 10 years earlier - Acts 16.25.)

6. If you were imprisoned for your faith, or for that matter laid up in hospital would you be able to respond as Paul did and to look for the positives?

7. In verse 14 what is the second thing Paul says has “really” happened as result of his troubles?

8. As a church we support the Barnabas Fund and can find out about how believers are suffering for their faith around the world. How can that benefit us through learning about, praying for and supporting such people?

## **Motives**

### **Read Philippians 1.15-18**

9. Write one or two sentences to sum up what you know of Paul as a person?

10. Paul was like a Christian celebrity and arrived in Rome with a bit of a fanfare (Acts 28.15), but had no hand in establishing the church there? What different responses do you think there might have been when he arrived there under arrest and began to get all the attention?

11. We don't know exactly what lies behind verses 15 to 17 but it seems that some resented the attention Paul got. How might bold preaching by others actually make things more difficult for Paul as he was awaiting trial.

12. What does Paul write about the motives of such people?

13. In what ways can selfish ambition cause trouble in the life of a local Church or other Christian organisations?

14. Despite the trouble they were causing him did Paul want these others to stop preaching? Why not?