

# PHILIPPINIANS

DAY 1

Philippians 1

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TODAY'S THEME: GOD'S PLAN WILL ALWAYS PREVAIL

**Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)**

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ.”

**Philippians 1:12 (NKJV)**

“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.”

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Paul was facing opposition to the gospel message from three different groups of people. Imagine that! Paul is trying to do what God has called him to do, and he’s seemingly faced with challenges everywhere he goes. He was facing opposition from Rome - they were envious of him. He was facing opposition from false teachers - they were trying, similar to what we read in Galatians, to preach a different gospel than what these Philippian believers had received. He was also facing opposition from the Philippian people themselves - they weren’t applying the gospel to their daily lives. He’s facing opposition from outside the church, and being misrepresented by people inside the church. His friends at Philippi are actually concerned about him. They’re wondering if he is discouraged, and his response to them is a challenging example to us. “The things that have happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.” Paul’s suffering was actually causing others to become MORE bold about the faith that they professed. God’s plan hadn’t been sidetracked. They weren’t suddenly working on “Plan B.” God was still moving.

I think we can all identify with that, can’t we? When things are going well, it’s so much easier to have an eternal perspective about challenges, right? It’s when we actually face difficulty, where it becomes a choice to have an eternal perspective. Here’s my question. What other choice do we have? I’m reminded of John 6 where some of Jesus’ disciples (not the twelve) turn from following Him, and He then looks at the twelve and asks if they want to leave too. Peter’s response is, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” What other option is there when we go through things that we can’t explain? I can’t think of anyone that can offer any kind of adequate context for the pain, suffering, and difficult situations that we face, besides God.

NOBODY enjoys difficulty. We all love comfort. I think that’s human nature. Is it possible though, that along with challenges producing spiritual fruit in our individual lives, and helping to form our character as it speaks of in Philippians 1:6, that they could also produce future fruit because of the opportunity afforded to us to speak to someone else of past pain that we’ve healed from?

What is God speaking to me about in today’s reading?

**MY PRAYER FOR TODAY:**