

REFLECTION

Lesson 3

Reflecting the Main Point

Philippians 1:12-18a

WHAT WERE APOSTLE PAUL'S CIRCUMSTANCES?

- A. His sufferings
 - 1. He was in **chains**.
 - 2. His future was **uncertain**.
- B. His perspectives

"...Still imprisoned, still chained, still unheard, still uncertain, he (Paul) looks back and answers, 'what... happened to me has really served to advance the gospel!'"

J. A. Motyer

- 1. He was in **chains** *because* Christ.
- 2. He was in **chains** *for* Christ.
 - a. He reminds his friends of **purpose**.
 - b. He reminds his friends of what **truly matters**.

"The same God Who used Moses' rod, Gideon's pitchers, and David's sling used Paul's chains. Little did the Romans realize that the chains they affixed to his wrists would release Paul rather than bind him."

Warren Wiersbe

- 3. He is in chains for others to become **bolder**.
- C. His critics
 - 1. What was their **purpose**?
 - 2. What was Paul's **response**?

HOW DO WE VIEW OUR CIRCUMSTANCES?

“Paul’s example is impressive and clear: Put the advance of the gospel at the center of your aspirations. Our own comfort, our bruised feelings, our reputations, our misunderstood motives – all of these are insignificant in comparison with the advance and splendor of the Gospel. As Christians, we are called upon to put the advance of the gospel at the very center of our aspirations.”

Don Carson