

Philippians: Joy in the Journey

God at Work Through Our Pain

Philippians 1:12-14, p. 951

I. PAUL'S PAIN ADVANCED THE GOSPEL (Phil. 1:12).

- A. Painful circumstances have purpose (12).
- In the middle of the pain we may not see the purpose but God is at work.
 - God's faithfulness is often times most clear when looking back (Acts 21-28).
- B. Our pain is not meaningless (2 Corinthians 4:5-10,16-18).
- Light shines the brightest in the darkness (5-6).
 - God's strength is displayed in our weakness (7-10).
 - Do not lose heart in these light and momentary troubles for they are achieving something of eternal value (16-17).
 - Fix your eyes on God's promises rather than your temporary circumstances. Exercise Faith (18)!

FAITH: "Now Faith is the confidence in what we hope for and the assurance about what we do not see."
-Hebrews 11:1

II. PAUL'S PAIN CLARIFIED THE NAME - JESUS (Phil. 1:13).

- It was abundantly clear who Paul preached, depended upon and who he called his God while in prison- JESUS.
- Our temporary pain allows us to magnify Christ's name.

III. PAUL'S FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAIN EMBOLDENED OTHERS TO PROCLAIM (Phil. 1:14).

- Our perseverance of bold faith in the midst of trials gives others more confidence in Christ.