

“UNFETTERED PREACHING”

Sermon outline for Philippians 1:12-18

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Class: B2

Module: Theology of Ministry

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“UNFETTERED PREACHING”

Reading: Philippians 1:12-18 – coherent subsection “Paul’s circumstances”

Introduction

Read all about it – PREACHER IN CHAINS BUT GOSPEL FLOURISHES

- How can that be?
- Paul - evangelist and preacher 1 Cor 9:16-19
- Prisoner in Rome for Christ Acts 28:30-31
- Optimistic account to encourage suffering Philippians.
- For us today – missionary, represents suffering church.

Focus on “preaching”

- Our view – person on stage?
- Done by “elite” and time to rest weary brain?
- Something we give marks for – s/he wasn’t on top form today...
- ...different in the early church – can be different today

Body – three avenues of preaching

I Preaching out of adversity (v12-13)

- Paul in jail leads to advance of gospel, jailers (elite troops) he talks to for hours become believers. Sympathy as no crime. “Advance through defeat” – like the cross!
- Paul’s maturity - joy in adversity, no self-pity, still witnesses to Christ (Eph 6:20). Could have got discouraged.
- Similar positive effects on captors in today’s persecuted church - “Heavenly Man” (China).
- Broader issue, God redeems our troubles to advance kingdom. Suffering can be a gift/blessing – it can “preach” (1:29). My own conversion, at time of sickness, positive effect on children’s faith.

II Preaching out of envy (v15-18)

- Though some “preachers” are envious and wish to harm Paul, Gospel spreads.
- Power of Gospel message, though vessels imperfect. Preacher needn’t be perfect.
- Paul’s selflessness – not dwelling on hurt. Rejoicing at success shows Christian maturity. (needs discernment!)
- Satan’s plans to divide, derail Gospel come to nothing, lead to God’s glory (apply to denominations of today).

III Preaching out of admiration (v14)

- Paul’s courage encouraged others to speak Word “courageously and fearlessly”. “Brothers” spoke word – church not paralysed when leader in jail.
- Preaching wider than sermonising “speak word”, “advance Gospel” How else can they believe? (Romans 10:14)
- Greek *keryssein* to herald, proclaim transmit clearly what a higher authority, Jesus, has commanded.

- We're **all** church "brothers" – "preaching" is speaking to neighbours, work colleagues, promoting Alpha (speak of recent examples).
- "Church on fire for God" far more effective than single preacher however eloquent. Are we not body of Christ? (1 Cor 12:12-13)

Conclusion – whys and hows of unfettered preaching

Why preaching?

- Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20)
- For Jesus' glory
- Save people from Satan's slavery for eternal life (Acts 26:18)

How preaching?

- **Through Persecution** – Paul talks to captors and they sympathise with his plight – powerful preaching. Think of suffering church round the world.
- **Through Providence** – God has a plan, and his gospel gets through to those he intends like a mighty and unstoppable river. Satan's plans come to nought.
- **Through Proclamation** - Goes much wider than sermon. Task for all, not an elite (we are body of Christ), essential for saving mankind.

Be mature, rejoice with Paul! Be on fire for God and preach! Save the lost!

(Ministry for those encouraged to "preach" following the message – and for those struggling with this command.)

WORD COUNT: 500 WORDS