

July 30, 2017 Message
Your Adversity is God's Opportunity
Philippians 1:12-20

Introduction:

● We often view life according to our personalities

1. Sanguine – life is an a_____
2. Choleric – life is a c_____
3. Melancholy – life is a p_____
4. Phlegmatic – life is “Oh w_____”

● Don't let your personality blind you from seeing the things of life as God sees them. How are we to view adversity?

1. Romans 8:28 – Adversity is God's opportunity to do His w_____
2. Phil 1:12-20 – The apostle Paul writes how God was working in his imprisonment.

● Your adversity is God's opportunity:

To Build His K_____ (12-18a)

● Paul's imprisonment

1. Scholars are divided over which imprisonment this is:
 - a. The ___ year imprisonment in Caesarea (Acts 24)
 - b. The ___ year imprisonment in Rome under house arrest (Acts 28)
2. Paul was in c_____ (NAS reads *imprisonment*, where most other versions are more literal).
3. Paul was chained to Roman g_____ (some version render this as a place [praetorium, palace], others render this as the guard)
 - a. This special guard was a group of _____
 - b. These guards were constantly rotated throughout the entire e_____.
4. Used by God to a_____ the gospel (v. 12)
 - a. As Paul was chained to a guard, he would w_____
 - b. Many guards came to Christ and also became w_____
 - c. Other Christians were gained boldness from Paul's imprisonment to witness without f_____ (v. 14)

● When things go wrong in your life, view it as God's opportunity to build His kingdom through you.

1. In persecution – Historically, Christianity spreads rapidly
2. In ill-health – witnessing opportunities
3. Financial – (not self-inflicted, but unexpected loss of income or massive increase in emergency expenses)
4. Personal problems
- 5.

To Build Your C_____ (18b-20)

● Paul r_____ while imprisoned (18b)

1. He was confident that he would be r_____ (19)
2. He was prepared to exalt Christ if he were to d_____ (20)
3. Paul demonstrated l_____, joy, and p_____

● In every adversity we face we are to rejoice because

1. It will produce p_____ (Rom 5:3)
2. It will pr_____ our faith as genuine (James 1:2,3)

As long as we allow adversity to have these God-intended results

Conclusion:

There are two ways we believers in Christ can react to adversity

1. Act like an unbeliever - be miserable
 2. See it as God's opportunity to build His kingdom and your character - rejoice
- What is your choice?*