

# God Our Great Deliverer

[Philippians 1:12-18](#)

"Strange Ways the Gospel Advances"— March 3, 2024



## Introduction

What would make you happy? Circumstances in this life are never perfect. God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in God. We were meant to spread the Gospel.

Big idea: The joyful confidence of a Christian is that the Gospel will be advanced through any adversity or any adversary.

## Sermon Outline

1. View trials as vehicles to spread the Gospel. Vs. 12-14
2. Live for Christ's glory and not your own. Vs. 15-18

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read vs. 12-14

Circumstances are servants in service to a sovereign God. In your trials, God is not punishing you but pursuing **them** through your presence in their lives. What are some of the tough circumstances in your life now?

As Christian's, a better way for us to view life is not what is happening to you but what might happen through you. How might God be using you in tough circumstances to bear fruit? How can you be intentional about sharing Christ? Who are the people in your life who need to hear the Gospel?

### 2. Read vs. 15-18

Notice here, there are two groups and one Gospel. It's not about us. The main message Christian's should be sharing is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Be bold for Jesus! The difference between the two groups is their motives. Paul rejoices because both groups are sharing the Gospel. Yet one thinks they are in competition with Paul, and the other group saw themselves as co-laborers with Paul. What Paul wanted most was for Christ's name to ring out, for the Gospel to be proclaimed, and for Christ to get the glory. This requires a lot of humility.

Are you tempted to do ministry to get an "honorable mention" from Jesus or others? What happens in your heart when your service isn't noticed? Is there any room for rejoicing in your heart when you are not the one being rejoiced over?

How do we cultivate a heart that rejoices in Christ and what He is doing?

- Meditate on the Gospel.
- Pray for proper priorities.
- Pray for other churches.
- Commend other ministries and other churches.

Motives matters. God sees and knows what is going on in the heart. The message matters. It is the biblical Gospel that is to be proclaimed - the good news of Jesus - exalting Jesus. We can have real, joyful confidence amid real, tough trials knowing that the Gospel is being advanced.

## Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at [fbcum.org](http://fbcum.org)

**Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Revelation 3:7-13](#) "A Letter From Jesus on Endurance"