

## Joy In Spite Of

### When the Going Gets Tough

Difficult circumstances and difficult people can get us down and if we allow it—our ministry can be hindered. Paul gives a challenging example: What does all the bad stuff matter if Christ is preached?

#### A. Triumph out of tragedy: Beauty from ashes! 1:12

1. The things that happen to us!  
Man's perspective: Limited  
God's perspective: Unlimited *Isa 61:1-4*
2. Furtherance of the Gospel  
What appears to be hindrance can be an advantage.  
The Philippian jailer *Acts 16:25-34*

#### B. A flower in the desert 1:13-14

1. Evident [manifest] to the unbelievers:  
The word manifest means to 'shine' forth. 1:13
2. The believers increase in confidence:  
Faith over fear! 1:14

#### C. What really matters? 1:15-18

Some preach from the energy and motivation of the flesh while others preach under the 'unction' (anointing) of the Holy Spirit.

##### Paul's Supporters

Preach Christ  
From good will  
Out of love  
Knowing  
God appointed  
In truth

##### Paul's Detractors

Preach Christ  
From envy and strife  
Out of selfish ambition  
Thinking (supposing)  
Self appointed: To cause distress  
In pretense (outward show)

#### 1. Cause for rejoicing: Christ is preached! 1:18

Paul does not condone the method, motive or hypocrisy here but simply rejoices that the name of the Messiah (Christ) is proclaimed—which is his primary purpose in life and death.

#### 2. Paul's view of preaching the gospel!

##### a. **Foolishness of the cross** 1 Cor 1:18

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

##### b. **From nothing to something** 1 Cor 1:27-28

“But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are that no flesh should glory in His presence.”

##### c. **Heavenly treasure—earthen vessels** 2 Cor 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.



### Philippians 1:12-18

**:12** But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,  
**:13** so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;  
**:14** and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.  
**:15** Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill:  
**:16** The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;  
**:17** but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.  
**:18** What then? Only *that* in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.