Murray Baptist Church – 3/2/21 – Bible Study Outline – Philippians 1:13-30

Philippians 1:12-14 **Overlooked Ideas**

* It can be challenging for anyone, including believers when they failed called to do something for God but circumstances seem to prevent you from getting past those circumstances. God may do one of two things…
  + CHANGE your circumstances or…
  + CHANGE You (change how you see your circumstances) – we see this in vs. 12-13. Paul sees his circumstances (chains and imprisonment) as something that will allow him to be a vehicle for his ministry. Rather than being sad at his circumstances, he sees God through them. God them show Paul that others throughout the Palace Guard that his chains are for Christ. As a result, others are emboldened by Paul’s condition and become bolder in public places themselves.

Philippians 1:15 **Change of Topic and Focus of Comments**

After showing the motive that Paul has for preaching and teaching, he calls out that some may be preaching the gospel out of good or pure motives and others are preaching with other motives in mind.

v. 16 – Motive for those preaching with a pure conscience (love, they recognize it is for the defense of the gospel.)

V. 17 – Motives for those preaching based on envy and rivalry (selfish ambition, insincere, trouble makers – they preach to cause trouble for Paul rather than preach to spread salvation)

v. 18 – This verse represents a new perspective – Whether the gospel is being preached out of love or out of selfish ambition – if the Gospel is being shared, regardless of the motive – it can still be effective. The majority of folks are preaching because they recognized Paul’s love and God’s love. They have gotten stronger in their faith. A minority preach out of rivalry but even though their motive is wrong – the Word of God will not come back void, without impact. That’s why Paul and all of us can rejoice knowing that God will still bless through the mess. No matter why people are preaching, they are still preaching and because of that people are hearing about Christ. The Gospel is being spread and that’s what would be happening if Paul were free. That’s why Paul rejoices and continues to do so.

v.19 Paul’s two reasons for rejoicing – 1) Your prayers; 2) The Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Jesus Christ) – it will turn out for my deliverance – in other words I won’t look like what I’ve been through.

* I will not be ashamed (even if I’m in prison), I’m not going to let what I’ve done or haven’t done, overshadow what God is doing!

v.20 – Paul believes in the power of addition.

* I eagerly expect and hope that I won’t be ashamed. But also…
* That I’ll have sufficient courage so that now and always Christ will be exalted in my body whether I live or I die.
  + To live is Christ; to go on living is fruitful labor, but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body (vs. 21, 22, 24)
  + To die is gain because that is to be with Christ, I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far (vs. 21-23)
    - Challenge – why might this section of the Bible be challenging for those who may believe their life is not worth living?
    - What are the important aspects someone who is contemplating suicide should understand about who Paul is speaking to in this passage?
* Convinced of this (that it’s not God’s will for Paul to leave this earth yet), he’ll continue for the benefit of others (joy and progress in the faith – v. 25), but Paul will also be lifted up by their boasting in Christ because of him.

Conduct or Lifestyles Worthy of the Gospel of Christ

v.27 – Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. What are those things based on this chapter alone?

Grace and peace come from God and Jesus Christ, if you know them you know the blessings

* No God, No peace
* Know God, Know Peace
* No God, No grace
* Know God, Know grace
* Pray with Joy – he who began a good work in you will finish it
* Pray for and allow your love to grow in knowledge and depth of insight
* Allow your life to be a testimony for what God has done
* Stand firm in one spirit striving together (v.27)