

Philippians 1:12-26 Gospel Centred Dreams

What sort of things can frustrate your plans from being successful? How many of these are the result of circumstances outside your control?

Read Philippians 1:12-26

1. List everything we learn about Paul's circumstances at the time?

2. How does Paul react to his circumstances? Is that how you would react in those circumstances?

3. A) How has what happened to Paul 'really served to advance the gospel'?

- B) What does that tell us about Paul's goals and dreams?

4. Not everyone ministering in the church does it for the right reasons. List the wrong motives and right motives that were occurring in Paul's day? How can this still happen today?

5. A) How does Paul summarize his aim in life (v21) and what does it mean?

- B) Can anyone or anything stop him from achieving this aim? Why or why not?

6. Why does Paul choose to continue life here and now as preferable to dying and going to be with Christ ("which is better by far")?

7. What does Paul want us to do in verse 27? How is it connected to what he does?

Think:

8. Why do you think Paul wanted the Philippians (and us) to know about his circumstances and his responses to them?

9. A) Why do we feel so trapped and frustrated by our circumstances at times? What difference would it make if like Paul our goal was to live for Christ?

- B) What things can hinder us from doing that in our lives?

10. How does Paul's example in the face of persecution and opposition inspire you in your faith and commitment to Jesus?

11. What are some of the costs that we will have to face in our lives if we like Paul make the gospel the centre of our dreams?

Pray for those on your Catch the Vision list who don't yet know Jesus