

# THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear” (Philippians 1:12-14).

# Introduction:

- 1) **Furtherance**- “progress, advancement” (Thayer). “The metaphor is uncertain, but is suppose to be that of pioneers cutting a way before an army, and so furthering the march” (Vincent).
- 2) Paul’s imprisonment didn’t hinder the gospel as the enemies of the cross might have thought.
- 3) It had the opposite affect!
- 4) There are four ways for furthering the gospel set forth in Philippians.

# THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

## ➤ By Fellowship

**“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now” (Philippians 1:3-5).**

# THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

## ➤ By Fellowship

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for **your fellowship in the gospel** from the first day until now” (Philippians 1:3-5).

# By Fellowship

- 1) **Fellowship**- “fellowship, association, community, joint participation, intercourse” (Thayer). Wuest says, “Paul thanks God for the fellowship of the Philippians saints in the gospel, namely, their joint-participation with him in the progress of the gospel.”

# By Fellowship

## 2) Their participation with Paul.

**“Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities” (Philippians 4:15-16).**

# By Fellowship

## 3) Some can go while others must stay.

“And He said to them, **“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”** (Mark 16:15).

“Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God” (Philippians 4:18).

# THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

↗ By Fellowship

↗ By Opposition

**“And most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear” (Philippians 1:14).**

# THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

↗ By Fellowship

↗ By Opposition

“And most of the brethren in the Lord, having **become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word** without fear” (Philippians 1:14).

# **By Opposition**

- 1) Remember that Paul was in a Roman prison when he wrote this epistle.**
- 2) Prison could not silence his tongue nor his pen.**
- 3) Others had become bold to teach seeing what Paul was enduring and accomplishing while bound.**

# By Opposition

**4) The efforts of Paul had paid dividends.**

**“All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar’s household” (Philippians 4:22).**

**“But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion” (2 Timothy 4:17).**

# By Opposition

## 5) Early church faced persecution yet grew.

**“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did” (Acts 8:4-6).**

**Legend**

- First Century Churches
- Second Century Churches

0 400mi

>12000  
8000  
4000  
1000  
0FEET  
<0



# THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

➤ By Fellowship

➤ By Opposition

➤ By Demonstration

**“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27).**

# THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

➤ By Fellowship

➤ By Opposition

➤ By Demonstration

**“Only let **your conduct be worthy of the gospel** of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27).**

# By Demonstration

## 1) Can adorn the gospel.

**“Not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things” (Titus 2:10).**

## 2) Others can be won to the Lord through our conduct.

**“Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear” (1 Peter 3:1-2).**

# By Demonstration

## 3) A poet once said:

**“You write a gospel, a chapter each day, by the deeds you do and the words you say. Men will read what you write, however faithless or true. Say, what is the gospel according to you?”**

# THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

- By Fellowship
- By Opposition
- By Demonstration
- By Proclamation

**“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” (Philippians 1:18).**

# THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

- By Fellowship
- By Opposition
- By Demonstration
- By Proclamation

“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” (Philippians 1:18).

# By Proclamation

## 1) Not everyone preached Christ from a sincere motive.

**“Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. 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” (Philippians 1:15-18).**

# By Proclamation

## 2) Paul's passion was to preach the gospel.

**“Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God” (Acts 9:20).**

**“And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:1-2).**

# By Proclamation

## 3) The same was true of Peter and John.

**“So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:18-20).**

# By Proclamation

## 4) This is the primary work of the church.

**“But if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).**

**“For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything” (1 Thessalonians 1:8).**

# By Proclamation

- 5) There is no God-approved substitute for the preaching of the gospel.
  - (a) Not entertainment.
  - (b) Not the social gospel.
  - (c) Not child care nor education.
  - (d) Not financial planning, etc.
  - (e) The emphasis should be on pleasing God and not man.

# THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

- By Fellowship
- By Opposition
- By Demonstration
- By Proclamation