

Remnant Life Church  
November 9, 2025

## What You Should Know When the World Wins One

Phil 1:12-14

When we began RLC, 13 years ago, we of course needed to come up with a name

- Churches are named in many different ways
  - Some are named after disciples or prophets in the Bible
  - Others from a particular verse
  - While still others from a biblical concept or even geographic locations
  - We decided that we wanted the name to describe who we are
    - Remnant – meaning a part of the whole as well as something that remains
      - 67 times in the NIV
      - **Romans 11:1-5** - *I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: "Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"? And what was God's answer to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal." So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.*
      - This church, regardless of what the world or this culture says or does, will always remain a remnant of God's people chosen by grace
      - We will be true to the Word of God unapologetically and without compromise
    - Life
      - The life of a Christian must be a demonstration of the presence of Jesus Christ
      - Your life should look different if you proclaim yourself to be a forgiven, child of God through an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life
- But what should those actions look like?
  - We read from **Galatians 5** the list of the fruits of the spirit
  - **Gal 5:22-23** - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*
    - Love – a caring for and seeking the highest good of another person without motive of personal gain (**Rom 5:5; I Cor 13; Eph 5:2; Col 3:14**)
    - Joy – the feeling of gladness based on the love, grace, blessings, promises and nearness of God that belong to those who believe in Christ (**Pslm 119:16; 2 Cor 6:10, 12:9; I Pet 1:8**)

- Peace – the quietness of heart and mind based on the knowledge that all is well between the believer and his or her heavenly Father (**Rom 15:33; Php 4:7; I Thess 5:23; Heb 13:20**)
- Forbearance/Long-Suffering/Patience – endurance, being slow to anger or despair (**Eph 4:2; 2 Tim 3:10; Heb 12:1**)
- Kindness – not wanting to hurt anyone or cause them pain (**Eph 4:32; Col 3:12; I Pet 2:3**)
- Goodness – zeal for truth and righteousness and a hatred of evil; it can be expressed in acts of kindness (**Luke 7:37-50**) or in rebuking and correcting evil (**Matt 21:12-13**)
- Faithfulness – firm and unswerving loyalty to a person to whom one is united by promise, commitment, trustworthiness and honesty (**Matt 23:23; Rom 3:3; I Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 2:2, 4:7; Titus 2:10**)
- Gentleness – restraint coupled with strength and courage; it describes a person who can be angry when anger is needed and humbly submissive when submission is needed (**2 Tim 2:25; I Pet 3:15**)
- Self-Control – mastering one's own desires and passions, including faithfulness to one's marriage vows as well as purity of thought and action (**I Cor 7:9, 9:25; Titus 1:8, 2:5**)
- Paul said in **Phil 1:11** that as our love abounds or grows it will be seen in our lives as the fruit of righteousness
  - IOW it will be evident
  - It is a right way of living exemplified by those fruits of the spirit

But what do you do and how do you act when you are on the receiving end of a difficult situation?

- The bear...
- What you do, how you respond, is based on what you think
- How do you see or perceive what is happening in that moment?
- Can the fruits of the spirit be seen by how you react and respond to whatever it is that is happening in that dark time?

We can see the right way to view those times by how Paul responds to a very difficult, although familiar situation he finds himself in

## **READ – Phil 1:12-14**

Obviously, Paul is in prison...again

- One of the earliest church fathers, Clement of Rome, wrote that Paul was imprisoned at total of 7 times during his years of ministry
- Four of Paul's letters, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon were all written from a prison cell
- While Paul may or may not have been speaking metaphorically when he says he is in chains, the outcome of his time in this Roman prison certainly could result in his death.

- As a matter of fact, it would be only another 3 years or so that Paul would, once again, be in a Roman prison by order of the emperor Nero, and that would lead to his martyrdom
- His final letter, found in 2 Timothy, was written during this time

In spite of the fact that Paul is in a very difficult and uncomfortable place, each of the three verses we read contains an important truth that is important for us to understand

1. **V 12** – *...what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel*
  - a. Paul writes this as a response to what was likely the message brought to him
    - i. Later in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Philippians we read that a man by the name of Epaphroditus, who was most likely the pastor or elder of the Philippian church, brought gifts to Paul from the church during his first Roman imprisonment
    - ii. Based on Paul's response, the message to Paul, likely in the form of a letter, undoubtedly conveyed the sentiment of the people as this was a church that he was especially close to
      1. We have no record regarding the content of the letter
      2. But there is a very good chance it went something like this:
    - iii. Our dear Paul – we were all so distressed to hear that you are in prison. Certainly, they have no just cause to do this and we cannot image how difficult it must be for you. Please do not become overly discouraged that your ministry has been forced to come to a stop and we will continue to pray that somehow, someday, God will ease your burdens, comfort you, and encourage you until you can begin ministering again. With heavy hearts - Your grieving brothers and sisters in Philippi.
    - iv. Have you ever had somebody pray for you and you actually felt worse afterwards than you did before?
  - b. Verse **12** is Paul's response to those likely sentiments
    - i. In this verse Paul is, essentially saying... Whoa, whoa, whoa! Not only am I still preaching salvation through Jesus Christ, but the Gospel is advancing even further because of these circumstances.
  - c. What we recognize here is that the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – which in this case is how Paul is living – should never be thwarted by circumstances or events
    - i. Why?
    - ii. Well, let me remind you of something
    - iii. God is all-powerful, He is all-supreme, and He is sovereign over all His creation
  - d. But the work of God's Hand begins not with the advancement of the Gospel, but what He is doing in your own life
    - i. His call on your life and what He desires for you cannot be lost because of adverse circumstances
    - ii. Paul was in an adverse circumstance/environment
    - iii. Not only did it not stop him but, as he writes to the people, it advanced his efforts because God's will is relentless

- e. The prophet Jonah could probably speak to this truth
    - i. You know the familiar story
    - ii. But my favorite verse in that account has nothing to do with Jonah, the fish, or even the end result
    - iii. **Jonah 3:1** – *Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time*
    - iv. God's call, His instructions, His assignment for Jonah had not changed
    - v. Nor do they change for us regardless of what you are going through now or have gone through in your past
  - f. REFUSE to allow difficult circumstances, unseen obstacles, or apparent roadblocks to discourage you into quitting what God has for you – PRESS THROUGH!
    - i. Paul did not view this as a setback but as a blessing
    - ii. He had no greater desire than to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Rome
    - iii. And in this situation, God had even given him a captive audience
  - g. God will turn your obstacles into opportunities if your mind and heart are set on the things of Him and not your surroundings
  - h. Remember, as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, Peter walked on the water!
  - i. So too in our storms, we must keep our eyes on Jesus
2. **V 13** - *...it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ*
- a. I like how the Amplified Version states this
  - b. *So much is this a fact that throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest [here] my imprisonment has become generally known to be in Christ [that I am a prisoner in His service and for Him].*
    - i. Now we are not 100% sure what type of imprisonment Paul is dealing with here
    - ii. There were times when he was only under house arrest although he was still confined
      - 1. What we do know is that the word "imprisonment" in the original language is *dez-mohn*
      - 2. It comes from the root word *dez* which means to bind
      - 3. Paul is very likely in chains
    - iii. But could his godly reputation throughout the entire prison been possible if Paul's demeanor had been one of depression, anger, or self-pity?
    - iv. No – anyone who came into contact with Paul would have come to quickly realize that he was not there as a political prisoner, a thief, or any other type of lawbreaker
    - v. Paul made it very evident that his life was not his own and that he was there only because of what he believed as a servant of the One True God
  - c. What do you make evident to the people who come into contact with you throughout the day?
  - d. What do they see by how you respond when things are going well?
    - i. And more importantly, what do they see by how you respond when things are not going well?

- ii. As Christians, in a modern culture that is almost completely devoid of kindness, patience, and gentleness that Paul writes of in **Gal 5**, who then is modeling the godly behavior of a life transformed by Jesus Christ?
    - iii. It must be us!
  - e. Everyone in the prison knew not only who Paul was, but whose he was by the way he acted in a very difficult time
    - i. Can the same thing be said about you or me this morning?
- 3. Finally, **verse 14** Paul tells the church... *Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the Word of the God more courageously and fearlessly.*
  - a. Paul is proclaiming that not only are lives being changed within the prison but also all around the region
    - i. And this is not because of some wonderful miracle that has set him free, it is because Paul is in prison
    - ii. What this reinforces is that your actions, your words, your demeanor impacts and influences others.
  - b. But it takes courage to do that
    - i. How many of us are willing to speak out loud of our faith?
    - ii. How many of us are willing to be laughed at, ignored, or even put down?
    - iii. Courage often must be acquired
      - 1. The word courage in the original language is *tol-MAH-oh*
      - 2. It is written in the present progressive tense meaning it is not only happening now but it continues
      - 3. Your courage should be ongoing when it relates to your words and actions as a Christian
      - 4. Because your courage impacts others and their behavior
    - iv. Jim Elliot was a missionary who was killed along with 4 other men by an Ecuadorian tribe they were attempting to make contact with.
      - His widow wrote a story called *Through Gates of Splendor* telling their story
      - Author and pastor Tony Merida in one of his books wrote...
        - *Persecuted Christians often inspire otherwise timid believers. After Jim Elliot and his four missionary friends were brutally killed by the Auca Indians in January of 1956, a large number of Wheaton College graduates offered themselves as missionaries in the years following. He goes on to write, *A similar thing was happening through Paul's sufferings. Christians were becoming more confident, bolder, and were speaking "with great courage.**
  - c. Paul's work continued to be effective outside of the prison because of his current inability to preach to the people in his usual manner of being with them
    - i. Other people were becoming emboldened thinking, "if he can do that in there, surely I can do the same out here"
    - ii. But it took Paul writing to them that nothing had changed in His call to spread the Gospel – even the chains of prison

- What do people see, hear, and feel when they are in your presence?
- Paul was chained in prison yet...
  - He proclaimed that his time in prison was serving to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ
  - His attitude and actions impacted the entire prison from the other prisoners to the hardened Praetorian Roman Guard
  - Finally, His time in prison was so effective that he was encouraging those on the outside to become bolder in their proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ
- We, too should desire to have that same level of impact in spite of what is going on in our lives
  - The Fruits of the Spirit need to be seen in us
  - Not just in the good, but especially in the bad
  - Few things will make a greater impact for the Kingdom in the lives of the people you influence