



**Unstuck: Advancing**

**Getting to Know Each Other:** What were your high points this summer? What were your lows? How about in the last week?

**Philippians 1:12-30**

*(HCSB)*

12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has actually resulted in the advance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is in the cause of Christ. 14 Most of the brothers in the Lord have gained confidence from my imprisonment and dare even more to speak the message fearlessly. 15 To be sure, some preach Christ out of envy and strife, but others out of good will. 16 These do so out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; 17 the others proclaim Christ out of rivalry, not sincerely, seeking to cause me anxiety in my imprisonment. 18 What does it matter? Just that Christ is proclaimed. And in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice 19 because I know this will lead to my deliverance through your prayers and help from the Spirit of Jesus Christ. 20 My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all boldness, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

21 For me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don't know which one I should choose. 23 I am pressured by both. I have the desire to depart and be with Christ—which is far better— 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that, because of me, your confidence may grow in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

27 Just one thing: Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, working side by side for the faith that comes from the gospel, 28 not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your deliverance—and this is from God. 29 For it has been given to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him, 30 having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have.

**Review**

1. Was Paul at a high point or a low point in his ministry? Why do you say that?
2. In what way was he stuck? What story does he share to illustrate how the Gospel was still advancing?
3. How many times does Paul use the word "Gospel" in our reading?
  - a. What does the word mean?
  - b. How would you define it to an unbeliever?

- c. Why is it an appropriate word choice for Paul given the theme for this letter?

### Living My Faith

- d. How do you feel when the future is unknown?
- i. Anxious? Worried? Scared? Stressed? Sick?- what word would you use?
  - ii. What is your unknown?
- e. Re-read verses 12 through 18. Would you use the common phrase “Any publicity is good publicity” to describe Gospel outreach? Why or why not?
- f. Paul advocates, “Living for a purpose bigger than yourself.” Pick a verse from our reading that you would say summarizes that purpose. Once everyone has picked one and copied the verse down, share which verse you wrote out with the group.
- g. Beyond just giving our current life purpose, Christ has life magnified - life *eternal*. Read 2 Timothy 1: 9-10. In these words to Timothy, what does Paul say Christ has done for his earthly life? What has he done with death?
- h. Where are you stuck right now? And how does that translate to “What is your area of influence?”
- i. Who do you know is stuck? How can you use your position/relationship with them to invite them to group next week?

**“With thanksgiving let your requests be known to God.”** Let each person pray for someone you know who is stuck. Thank God that he has given you an opportunity to share the Gospel with them. Ask that he give *you* the courage, like Paul, to share the Gospel with them.

### My Next Steps

**Point to Ponder:** *When Jesus becomes larger than your life, you're free to face the future without fear.*

**Treasure to Share:** *I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. (Philippians 1:20).*

**Action to Take:** *Pray for a heart that trusts that with God on your side it's always for your good so that even if your outward set of circumstances doesn't change, you can have the confidence that God will change you. Then look for ways God might be leading you to let Christ become larger than your life for the good of others!*