

# Sermon Outline

## Having the Mind of Christ (2): Gospel Advance in Hard Places

*Philippians 1:12-18*

### I. Introduction

- Paul the servant wrote to the saints in Philippi
- He thanked them for their partnership of the gospel from day one till now
- He assured the Philippian Christians that God who began the good work i.e. salvation in them will bring it to completion
- He prayed for them to abound in love and with knowledge and discernment

### II. The Gospel advance in spite of constraints vs 12-14

- Paul was placed under house arrest where he could no longer preached the gospel or plant churches in places where Christ is not named.
- Paul was not a super saint. He was not immune from loneliness, discouragements and broken dreams. He seized the opportunity to preach to the guards and wrote what we called the Prison Epistles to the churches.
- It is not to make the best out of your circumstances nor to make do with the situation. It is to bloom where God has placed you
- The mission field is nearer than you think
- Your response under dire circumstances can and do provoke one another to love and good works

### III. The Gospel advance in spite of conflicts vs 15-18

- Paul's competitors preach the gospel out of envy and rivalry to rub salt on his wound i.e. his imprisonment for the defense of the gospel
- Paul was not much perturbed by their personal intent so long the gospel content was not corrupted

- Again he put on the mind of his master, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ cf Mark 9.38-41 in handling this situation
- The church is bigger than you think
- Your joyful attitude in conflicts can and do cause other to rejoice in the Lord

#### **IV. Conclusion**

- The Gospel advance in hard places so that all may come to hear the good news of salvation
- The Gospel also advance and conquer the hardest of hearts and in the most unlikely places
- Have you yielded turned from your sins and trust in Christ?