

<b>Book:</b>	Philippians
<b>Series:</b>	Rejoice in the Lord!
<b>Lesson 4:</b>	A Godly Perspective on Challenges
<b>Text:</b>	Philippians 1:12-18a
<b>Date:</b>	2013 — September 15 (SF); September 29 (ABF)
<b>Next Lesson:</b>	Philippians 1:18b-26

## INTRODUCTION

This passage asks how serious we are about:

1. Living “to the glory and praise of God” (v. 11)
2. Participating in the gospel (v. 5)

Neither of those things is easy, especially in a broken world where challenges abound. When those challenges come, how do you view them? Do you trust God’s providence in those challenges and follow Him still? Or do you allow them to be an excuse for living to your own glory and participating in your own agenda?

In this passage, Paul speaks candidly about his challenges, but he also teaches us how to view them. Challenges are real, and they’re not going away. But whether they compel or cripple us will be determined by the way we view them, by our perspective. *We need to cultivate a godly perspective on challenges.*

## OF CHALLENGES

1. \_\_\_\_\_ *against your ministry (vv. 12-14)*
2. \_\_\_\_\_ *within your ministry (vv. 15-18a)*
  - a. *They can have sinful* \_\_\_\_\_ *(vv. 15, 17a, 18a).*
  - b. *They can be simply* \_\_\_\_\_ *(v. 17b).*

## OF CHALLENGES

For Paul, challenges offered one key opportunity that he summarizes in two phrases:

- “to advance the gospel” (v. 12)
- “for the defense of the gospel” (v. 16)

Those who fail to accept the gospel’s \_\_\_\_\_ for their life will have a difficult time adopting the \_\_\_\_\_ that Paul models here. Paul saw four benefits in the midst of challenges:

1. *Our* \_\_\_\_\_ *is clarified (v. 13).*
2. *Our* \_\_\_\_\_ *is emboldened (v. 14).*
3. *Our* \_\_\_\_\_ *is proclaimed (vv. 15-18a).*

Paul demonstrates that conflict forces us to consider what is most important:

- People (i.e., picking \_\_\_\_\_) or a \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., proclaiming a Savior)
- \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

4. *Our* \_\_\_\_\_ *is grounded (v. 18a).*