

# The Gospel Can't Be Stopped

Philippians 1:12-18

The Church at Philippi

Nate Marsh—February 8, 2026

Philippians 1:12

God is always working on the bigger picture—even when we're laser-focused on the smaller one.

**POINT 1: GOD USES \_\_\_\_\_ WE  
WOULD NEVER CHOOSE**

Philippians 1:13

**POINT 2: GOD USES OUR \_\_\_\_\_, NOT  
JUST OUR RESTRICTIONS**

Philippians 1:14

**POINT 3: GOD'S PURPOSE  
IS \_\_\_\_\_ THAN OUR PREFERENCES**

Philippians 1:15–18

The gospel is bigger than my comfort, my reputation, and my preferences.

Jesus didn't avoid suffering. He entered it. The cross looked like defeat. It felt like a loss. It appeared final. God used the worst injustice in human history to accomplish the greatest rescue the world has ever known.

## **YOUR NEXT STEP – REFRAME THE DETOUR**

Identify one circumstance in your life that feels like a setback.

Then do two things:

1. Pray for perspective—that God would help you see beyond yourself.
2. Choose faithfulness right where you are, trusting that God can use it.

## Questions for Further Study

1. How does Paul redefine “success” and “progress” in Philippians 1:12–18, and how does that challenge common assumptions about God’s work?
2. In what ways does this passage demonstrate that God can use restrictive or unfavorable circumstances to advance His purposes? Identify examples from the text that support this theme.
3. What role does faithful response play in the spread of the gospel, according to Paul’s experience in prison? How does this shape a biblical understanding of suffering and witness?
4. Why is Paul able to rejoice even when the gospel is preached from mixed or impure motives, and what does this reveal about his priorities?