



WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHING NOTES & HANDOUT – Wednesday, August 1st, 2018

TOPIC OF FOCUS: Overview of the Book of Philippians & The Principles of Adversity

INTRODUCTION:

Read Philippians 1:1 – 26 (NKJV)

- The psalmist wrote that *“the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord”* – **Psalm 37:23**. But someone has wisely observed that God not only lovingly orders our steps but also our _____.
- At one point in his second missionary journey, the apostle Paul experienced successive divine “_____” within Asia Minor (known then as “Asia”); The first time, the Holy Spirit prevented him and his area north of the city of Ephesus. The second time, they tried to go north into Bithynia, *“but the Spirit did not permit them”* (**Acts 16:6,7**). Finally, Paul looked to the northwest – to Troas – a seaport just across the Aegean Sea from Macedonia. Given the roadblocks of previous days, he may have turned toward Troas somewhat tentatively. But met him there with unmistakable instructions sometime in the night; Paul had a vision of a Macedonian man pleading with him, *“Come and help us”* (**Acts 16:8, 9**).
- Suddenly all those _____ made sense! God wanted them to bring the message of Christ to Macedonia. Paul and his missionary team were so certain that God had made Philippi their top priority that Luke writes: *“Immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.”* (**Acts 16:10**).
- **The WHAT’s of the Book of Philippians:**
 - (1) **WHAT IT SAYS:** Have and maintain _____ and _____ in the midst of everything!
 - (2) **WHAT IT MEANS:** Keep your _____ on the highest prize.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - (3) **WHAT IT MEANS FOR US:** How to be an _____!

PRINCIPLES FOR ADVERSITY

- Paul had the right attitude toward his _____. When writing, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, earlier to the Corinthians, he said, *“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”* – **2 Corinthians 12:10 (NKJV)**.
- To “take pleasure” means “to think well or have the right attitude.”
- **Philippians 1:12 (NKJV)** – *“But I want you to know, brethren, that **the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.**”*
 - Learnings to take away:
 - (1st) – Afflictions, Pain, Troubles are _____. (**Psalms 34:19; John 16:33**)
 - Suffering _____ comes for one of two (2) reasons:
 - (1) – As a Christian, doing the _____ of the Gospel (Great Commandment and Commission) and the _____ of God (humbly) and obediently.
 - (2) – As an evil doer or disobedience Saint.

- **Read 1 Peter 4:12 – 19 (NKJV)**
- (2nd) – Even though the reality of afflictions, pain and troubles are inevitable the response to afflictions, pains, and troubles are our _____.
- We must choose to embrace of an attitude of: (1) _____ and _____ or (2) _____ and _____ to the Word of God and Will of God.
- We must choose to engage and enlarge our mindset, mental attitude, motives and mouth to be: (1) _____ and not _____; realizing that this more than just about _____. My salvation may be personal, but not _____.
- We must choose to allow the Word of God and Spirit of God to equip us, enable us and empower us to _____ *in* and _____ *in* Principles for Adversity in our lives.
- We must choose to _____ right and have the right _____ about adversities, pains, afflictions, _____.
- **7 Areas Where We Should Think Well in Adversity:**
 - (1) Adversity _____ the progress of the Gospel (**1:12**).
 - **Furtherance** = (Gr: *prokopē* – advancement; profit; progress).
 - (2) Adversity _____ opportunities for witness (**1:13**).
 - People seeing your **JOY** and **HOPE** in Christ through trials, troubles and terrible times witnesses to others.
 - Sharing your testimony of God’s faithfulness and goodness to deliver, heal, turn things around, answer prayers, etc. *reflect* and *reinforce* a positive witness and testimony of Jesus – (**Acts 1:8**) to those around you.
 - (3) Adversity _____ courage in fellow believers (**1:14**).
 - (4) Adversity _____ the character of our friendships (**1:15 – 18**).
 - (5) Adversity brings _____ growth in our lives (**1:19 – 20**).
 - As we allow the Lord to use the adversity for our good – it will bring positive growth (**Romans 8:28**).
 - **Lack and Need of Growth / Progress = Inward Poverty:**

 - **No Growth / Progress = Inward Plateau:**

 - **Good Growth / Progress = Inward Progress:**

 - (6) Adversity _____ our motives (**1:21**).
 - Like Paul, we must evaluate all experiences through our life’s purpose: *“to live is Christ and to die is gain.”*
 - (7) Adversity _____ us to see life and death in perspective (**1:22 – 26**).

NOTES:
