

Difficulties Advance the Kingdom

Description

Philippians 1:12-19.

Philippians was written by Paul from a prison cell. You would think jail time would bring the gospel message to a screeching halt, but it didn't!

Far from failure, the gospel was furthered. Paul was preaching to a captive audience. Believers outside were encouraged. Phony preachers were proclaiming Jesus to get back at Paul. The good news is, whether sincerely or not, Jesus was preached (v. 18).

Our second pastorate was a small church in Nebraska that had just completed a building program. On our first Sunday, we learned we were being sued. The contractor was paying off his past project with our money and not paying his subcontractors. The contractor died of cancer, leaving 12 subs unpaid. Due to no lien-wavers, they sued us for \$37,000. We secured an attorney but within a few weeks, he, too, passed away! We offered to meet all 12 workers halfway. Six accepted and the others took us to court.

We passed the plates again, others helped us, and we soon had everyone paid. We came out of that in a spirit of revival. People were being saved and sanctified and were growing in Jesus! In spite of it all, the gospel of Jesus moved forward.

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