

Discussion Notes  
Philippians 1.12-19  
January 31  
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In Acts 23 we are given Paul's journey. From Jerusalem to Caesarea, and then on to Rome. He is the veteran missionary but this has not been an easy journey. We see in 2 Corinthians 11.24-27 just how tough Paul had it.

#### 1.12 Purpose

- He considers his past as "trophy scars".
- Every negative became a positive because he was walking in purpose (Acts 9.15).
- That is what a powerful experience with Jesus can do – give you purpose.
- Colossians 1.16.
- When we walk in our purpose we discover that the best of life is loving God with everything.
- Do you know your purpose and passion?
- Listen to what others say about what you're good at!

#### 1.13-14 Perspective

- He sees his present circumstance as a part of his mission. He knows why he is in prison – a glass more than half full.
- Paul does not think in terms of loss but of moving forward in all circumstances.
- When we go through tough circumstances we can consider how they might help another in the future. Sometimes that past hurt might be a part of your future purpose. It might not have been intended by God, but he can redeem even that to bless others.
- When we allow a Kingdom perspective to inform our difficult circumstances they are no longer obstacles but opportunities.

#### 1.15-18 Posture

- Paul doesn't get bitter – he is joyful that the Kingdom is advancing, even if it means hardship for him.
- When a leader falls does their behavior minimize the power or truth of the Gospel? No! The Kingdom is beyond us. We are welcome to join in, but God's good plans will emerge even in our weakness. This isn't to justify or lessen the evil works that are done, but to encourage us that the Gospel wins in the end.

#### 1.19

- Paul doesn't rely on his own abilities. He asked for, is involved in and celebrates prayer. Living with this kind of purpose, perspective and posture is always a work of the Spirit.

## **Discussion Questions**

- What struck you most out of the three points and how did it apply to you?
- Do you feel you know your purpose? Where are you on the journey to discovering that?
- How might God use you to bless others based on something challenging you've been through in the past?
- What encouraged you about this passage?