



# The Value of Hardships

*How to make the most of our difficult circumstances.*

## Philippians 1:12-18

**Philippians 1:12-18** – <sup>12</sup>Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup>As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup>Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

<sup>15</sup>It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup>The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

<sup>17</sup>The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. <sup>18</sup>But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

(New International Version)

1:12 – What had happened to Paul?

Why was Paul imprisoned in the first place?

1:12-13 – What was the result of Paul's suffering for the sake of the gospel?

What has changed since Paul's day? How should Christians expect from our culture today?

What kind of afflictions do we suffer at work for being Christians?

How can God use our afflictions at work to serve His purpose?

1:14 – What benefit came from Paul's imprisonment?

1:15 – Why were others emboldened to preach God's Word by Paul's imprisonment?

1:16 – What motivated those who preached Christ out of goodwill?

1:17 – What motivated those who opposed Paul to preach Christ?

How do you think the Lord regarded those who preached Christ but opposed Paul?

Do good works always please God?

1:18 – What was Paul's attitude toward those who preached Christ but opposed him?

What is the principle in Philippians 1:18 that we should be able to apply at work?

How does applying the principle in Philippians 1:18 make us better workers?