

“WHEN SETBACKS BECOME GOD’S SET-UPS”

Philippians 1

-Pastor Dan Morgan

Context:

- The Apostle Paul **planted** the church in Philippi on his second missionary **journey** around 52 A.D.
- This is Paul’s **“thank you”** letter in 62 A.D.
- Paul wrote Philippians from a Roman **prison** while awaiting potential execution.

²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:2-6

Perspective Says: When someone **sins** against you: Forgive.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

Philippians 1:7

WHY GOD?

- We all have a **what** and don’t understand the **why**.
- God always has a **why** behind the **what**.
- I don’t have to understand the **why** to trust God in the **what**.

TWO QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN LIFE GETS HARD...

- **“WHAT” IS GOD DOING? Or What is God Showing me?**

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to *advance the gospel*. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

Philippians 1:12-14

Perspective Says: Both believers and non-believers are watching you during hardships – handling with joy is encouragement.

- **WHAT DOES IT MATTER IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY?**

¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached.

Philippians 1:17-18

Perspective Says: Everything can and will point back to Jesus.

¹⁸ ...And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:18-21

Perspective Says: Throughout human history, God can be trusted. *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.*

Proverbs 3:5