

FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

Philippians 1:12, “But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the Gospel.”

Reading: Philippians 1:8–21

God’s heart is that the Gospel, His good news of salvation in Christ, be furthered throughout the world. Remembering this and connecting this truth with a specific trial we face can be a cause for rejoicing. Writing from prison, the apostle Paul understood and wanted his brethren in Christ to know that the things which happened to him had “fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the Gospel” (Philippians 1:12). Though being in prison must not have been easy or what he would have humanly chosen, Paul lived for Christ. Therefore, he rejoiced in Him and that Christ was being preached in ways that would not have been otherwise.

When some Bible club children’s families in our small Nova Scotian fishing village moved, I was tempted to ask God why He was allowing it. But God reminded me that He is perfect, this was part of His perfect plan, and I should see this change as His way of furthering the Gospel into the community to which the families had moved. As a result, the Lord has opened the door to now have a Bible club and some ladies’ outreaches in this neighboring village as well. Though there are some difficulties involved with traveling to the other side of the mountain and maintaining contact with these families, I rejoice that the Lord is using this trial to further the Gospel to others who need to hear the simple message of salvation in Christ. I wonder what difference it would make if, in every difficulty God allowed to come into our lives, we would ask Him how we can cooperate with Him and submit to His plan for the furtherance of the Gospel?

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