

WEEK TWO

The Gospel Advances

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apostle of Christ

church planter in Asia + Europe

house arrest in Rome

THEMES

Gospel

citizenship

partnership

joy

RECIPIENTS

Philippians

church of Roman citizens

partners in the gospel

hardship in urban Roman colony

The Gospel Advances through a prison in Rome

Philippians 1:12 ^{NIV}

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served **to advance the gospel.**

What is the Gospel?

a 'gospel' in Philippi

cultural context

A gospel is a significant term

a gospel in Greek is "*euangelion*" which means "*good message/good news*"

A gospel has a political announcement

a royal proclamation at the arrival, victory, or ascension to a throne of a significant person

A gospel has a historical narrative

a collection of events explaining the peace and justice offered through a significant person

The Gospel of Caesar

Pax Romana

Priene Inscription:

“The most divine Caesar...we should consider equal to the Beginning of all things...; Caesar... the beginning of life and vitality... and having become god manifest, Caesar has fulfilled all the hopes of earlier times... in surpassing all the benefactors who preceded him... and whereas, finally, the birthday of the god [*Augustus*] has been for the whole world the beginning of good news (*euangelion*) concerning him.”

Richard Horsley, *Jesus and Empire*

The Gospel of God

biblical context

Isaiah 52:7 NIV

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

Mark 1:14-15 NIV

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 57 AMP

For I passed on to you as of first importance what I also received—that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures,⁴ and that **he was buried**, and that **he was raised** on the third day according to the scriptures,⁵ and that **he appeared** to Cephas, then to the twelve.⁶ Then he appeared to more than 500 of the brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

**The gospel is the announcement of
God's Kingdom in and through the life,
death, resurrection, ascension, and
return of Christ**

Good News Advances in chains

Philippians 1:13-14 ^{NIV}

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.

**In any circumstance,
Jesus is Lord and is
making all things new.**

Following the Suffering Servant as wounded healers

“Christianity teaches that, contra fatalism, suffering is overwhelming; contra Buddhism, suffering is real; contra karma, suffering is often unfair; but contra secularism, suffering is meaningful. There is a purpose to it, and if faced rightly, it can drive us like a nail deep into the love of God and into more stability and spiritual power than you can imagine.”

Timothy Keller, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*

Good News Advances through proclamation

Philippians 1:15-17 ^{NIV}

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

Philippians 1:18a ^{NIV}

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...**

**Through any motive,
Jesus is Lord and is
making all things new.**

Good News Advances in life and death

Philippians 1:18b-21 ^{NIV}

...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.

**In my life and death,
Jesus is Lord and is
making all things new.**

Partnership in the Gospel

Philippians was written to encourage the church to strive for joyful unity, even in suffering, by living as citizens loyal to King Jesus who was exalted through suffering.

- What would it look like to live as if everything in your life really serves to advance the gospel?
- How would it change the way you react or respond to people and circumstances?
- How would it change the way you pray?