

## **Gospel Progress (Part 1)**

---

### **Introduction**

---

In this and the following study we focus on Paul's remarkable response to the challenges that he was facing. Though they no doubt caused him pain and distress, he is able to lift his eyes beyond his circumstances and to see them in the light of the Gospel and its growth in the world. All that matters to Paul is that Christ should be both proclaimed and glorified. This attitude would have been a great encouragement and challenge to the Philippians. In 1vs30 we read that they were going through the same struggles which Paul had experienced when he first visited Philippi and which he was continuing to face. A closer look at Acts and at Philippians itself shows that these struggles involved persecution from the outside (by the secular authorities and religious establishment) and the envy and opposition from some within the church. Not much has changed in this regard down the centuries so that what Paul wrote to the Philippians remains of great relevance to us today.

### **Study Questions**

---

(These questions should be answered from the text)

Re-read Acts 16vs16-40.

1. What kind of opposition did Paul and Silas face?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. From whom did this opposition come?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How did Paul and Silas respond to it?

Read Philippians 1vs12-26.

1. How does Paul want the Philippians to interpret what has happened to him?
2. What reasons does he give to justify this perspective?
3. How does Paul respond to the fact that some who preach the gospel are stirring up trouble for him?
4. How does Paul respond to the uncertainty about his future?
5. What is the thing that matters most to him?

**Think it Through** \_\_\_\_\_

In what way has Paul's response to his situation been a challenge or an encouragement to you?