

# WHEN BAD IS GOOD

(Philippians 1:12-21)

## Even **BAD** can be **GOOD** in the hands of a sovereign God

### 1. **BAD** Things

- **CHAINS**—Paul was imprisoned (7, 13-14, 17)
- **CRITICS**—Paul was attacked (15-18)
- **CRISIS**—Paul was facing death

### **GOOD** Results

- 12—served to “**advance**” the **gospel**
- 13—issue of the **gospel clarified**
- 14—**believers** have become **bolder**
- 15, 18—good news of **Christ preached**
- 21—living or dying means more of the same

### 2. **Why BAD can be GOOD**

Because God is sovereign, He controls:

- The **WHAT** (type)
- The **WHEN** (timing)
- The **HOW MUCH** (amount)

### 3. **A GOOD Response to BAD Things**

- **REJOICE** (18)
- **RELY** on Christ (19)
- **RESULT** will be Christ exalted (20)

The brothers of Joseph could never have done him so much good with their love and favour as they did him with their malice and hatred. (Thomas More, *A Godly Meditation*)

Christianity...points to the cross and says that, practically speaking, there is no evil so dark and so obscene—not even this—but that God can turn it to good. (Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*)

***Philippians 1:12-21***

*Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually 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>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.*

*<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 out of 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,*

*<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*