

Can Anything Good Come From Bad Circumstances?
Philippians 1:12

Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN

1. Some people are perpetual pessimists. Other people are incurable optimists. But for most of us, we are realists.
2. Paul wrote in **Philippians 1:12**, “**Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.**”
3. What happened to Paul?
4. So what is Paul's attitude? How does he handle these adverse circumstances?

I. Paul Remembered Jesus And What He Was Doing For Him. Philippians 1:13
“As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.”

- A. Paul had his mind on Jesus.
- B. **Philippians 1:17-18**
- C. So what should be on our hearts?
 1. **Philippians 1:4-6**

II. Paul Would Remember His Faith And How It Sustained Him.

- A. He leaned on the Lord. He praised the Lord. He prayed to the Lord.
 1. **“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:37-39**
- B. There is nothing you will face today that is harsher than what Paul faced.

III. Paul Realized That Bad Circumstances May Advance The Gospel. Philippians 1:12 “What has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.”

- A. How can the gospel be proclaimed with Paul in prison?
- B. Today, God can bless you and make you a blessing in the midst of bad circumstances.