

Get Over It, Get On With It

Philippians 1.27-30

September 9, 2012

Message Outline



And now, about you: Bring Pleasure to God

Philippians 1.27

1. Relationships made fresh by the Holy Spirit

Philippians 1.27

Get over it!

2. Pulling hard together for our neighbor's trust in the Gospel

Philippians 1.27

Get over it, get on with it!

3. And more to get over: getting shoved around and bent up

Philippians 1.28-30

- our salvation is a gracious gift of Christ;
another extension of His grace is suffering for Him
- The way of Jesus: loving neighbors to and through death

And now, about us: Bring Pleasure to God

- God bends sticks to point to Him
- God offers to help you get over it, so you can get on with it!

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Growth Group Questions



1. What gets in your way of "getting on with it"--living in fresh, forgiving, encouraging relationships and pulling hard together to share the gospel with our neighbors near and far?

2. If anyone had stuff "get in the way," it was Paul. Reread Acts 16.11-40, the story of Paul's first showing up in Philippi. In Philippians 1.30, he reminds the Philippians they saw his sufferings, some of them even had a hand in them. Read Paul's summary of those days, in his letter to the Thessalonians just a year later, 1 Thessalonians 2.2.
 - a. How did the Holy Spirit enable Paul to get over it and continue to bring pleasure to God by boldly sharing the Gospel with his neighbors? (Philippians 1.29, 2.3-8, etc.)

 - b. Read Jesus' words in Matthew 5.10-12. Ponder Acts 5.41 and 2 Thessalonians 1.5. Huh?

 - c. What is the new perspective God's Spirit is giving you about those "hard things" that keep getting in the way of us getting on with it?

3. We American followers of Jesus don't think or talk much about suffering and persecution. In fact, we reluctantly read passages like Philippians 1.28-30. Yet conservative estimates are that perhaps 12 people are killed *each hour* around the world because they are followers of Jesus. (www.persecution.com is a good place to begin.) And Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 3.12 "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."
 - a. Consider and talk together about this statement:

"We Western Christians shy away from thinking (and acting) much about persecution, either out of guilt that so many of us look so little like this, or out of fear that it might someday really be true for us."

 - b. What does Jesus' persecution and suffering and what it accomplished for those who opposed Him (us!--Romans 5.8-10) have to do with our possible persecution?