

Group Study Guide

STUDY 3: Philippians 1:12-18a

AIM: To be aware of the effects our attitudes have on our Christian service.

1. 'Paul... knew that God invariably means to bring new blessings out of the trials and difficulties his servants experience'. How did Paul know this? In what other passages does he emphasize it? Is the same principle illustrated in the lives of others in Scripture? What difference does this make to our attitude to adversity?
2. How should we respond when- unlike Paul's experience here- it does not become clear why we experience adversity?
How can it become evident in our everyday life that, like Paul, we experience everything 'for Christ' (v. 13)?
3. Paul saw that his response to his circumstances influenced others. Did Paul allow that possibility to influence his behavior here or at other times?
4. In what contexts is it a biblical principle that the reaction of others should influence our behavior (see *Rom.* 14:1-15:3; 1 *Cor.* 8:1-13)? What principles for Christian conduct are involved here?
5. Paul warns us here against 'rivalry' (v. 17). In what ways is that a danger today in Christian service? How would it manifest itself?
6. How can we learn to have Paul's balance (rejoicing that Christ is preached despite false motives, vv. 15-18)?
7. What are some of the causes of false motives in our own Christian service, and how can we deal with them?
8. 'We must reserve in our hearts a sanctuary of love for Jesus Christ- a sanctuary from which everything but trust in him and love for him is barred'. Discuss this idea.

FOR STUDY 4: Read Philippians 1:18b-26