

## Reflection Questions: Philippians 1:12-18

For the message, “God Works All Things for Good” given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on October 23, 2022

---

*These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](https://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Philippians 1:12-18

**12** I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, **13** so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. **14** And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

**15** Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. **16** The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. **17** The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. **18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

A summary of the message: Since God is working all things for good, let's be emboldened to speak about Christ more and more.

---

### **Let's get started...**

- What initially grabs your attention in this text? Or maybe, what questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what it's saying?

### **QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- When you consider that the Apostle Paul has now spent four years in prison, how surprised are you to hear him say, “what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel”? Do you think if you were in his chains for Christ that you could say the same thing? Why or why not?
- Or how about this one: are you surprised that the Paul's fellow Christians in Rome—seeing him in prison for Christ—have become more confident to speak the word about Christ more and more? Why or why not?
- How does this passage help us to understand our personal stories in the light of God's story of redemption, that God is indeed working all things—the good, the bad, and the ugly—for our good and his glory?

**2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- What role do you think we should play in each other's lives to help each other see and live in light of the truth that God is working all things for the good, as Paul is wanting the Philippians believers to know? What might that look like?
- How does this passage serve as an invitation for us to join God's mission in proclaiming Christ more and more boldly ?

**3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.**

- What would it look like for us a community of faith if we are to live out the message of this passage in our city?
- How does this text help us understand God's mission in our city, like Paul wanted the Philippians to understand for their city?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_