

Small Group and Reflective Questions: Phil 1.12-26
Grace Hill Church
January 14, 2013

1. Paul's news to his friends (the church at Philippi) was that he was in a hard place, a Roman prison. What is a time you were in a hard position that you don't mind sharing with the group?
2. There were several aspects of Paul's situation that were troubling: physical discomfort, injustice, attacks from an "anti-Paul" group, lack of freedom, shame, possible death. Which of these or others were most acute on your situation?
3. Paul showed the unexpected but powerful perspective that God was at work even in his very hard situation: the gospel was advancing and he was experiencing the Gospel's comfort, in the midst of the aspects in Q2, so that he was able to rejoice, v. 18. What are the ways in v.27-30 that Paul is calling the Philippians to face their hardships with the same perspective that he is showing them? What aspects of what Paul shows us have you experienced in times of trouble? Which are ones you particularly are in need of experiencing now? Or which are perennially the most difficult for you to live out? How do we grow in this reality?
4. When do you feel the most "boldness to speak the word without fear," v.14? How do we cultivate this without resorting to guilt? What should be the motives that we want to drive such boldness?
5. What is Paul doing when he says, "What then?" in v.18? What does it take to say this? How do we cultivate this?
6. What is behind Paul's well known saying in v.21? How would you explain it to your non-Christian friends so it does not come off "cultic?" Again, how do we cultivate the ability to say this, live it out, and see it changing how we make decisions and face challenges?