

**It is all in how you look at it**



# God's Purpose

- God can turn:
  - Tribulation into Triumph
  - Persecution into Progress
  - Adversity into Advantage
- Remember Joseph in Egypt

# Not all things are Good

- Paul was in chains, in prison, in Rome
- He knew his death could come soon
- Paul was not glad for the chains
- **Acts 26:29** And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."

# Cloud # 1 Paul in Chains

- Paul wanted to visit Rome (Romans 1:10)
- He was ready to preach at Rome (1:15)
- But he did not want to be there in prison with a death sentence on him

# Cloud # 1 Paul in Chains

- A whole series of events put Paul in this position
  - Arrested and accused in Jerusalem
  - 2 years in Caesarea
  - Felix, Agrippa – appeal to Caesar
  - House arrest in Rome (chained to a Roman soldier)
- NO – Woe is me!

# Silver Lining # 1

## Furtherance of the Gospel

- **Philippians 1:12-14** 12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

# Silver Lining # 1

## Furtherance of the Gospel

- **Philippians 1:12** But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have **actually** turned out for the furtherance of the gospel
- Actually = contrary to what was designed or expected
- More are hearing the gospel message

# Silver Lining # 1

## Furtherance of the Gospel

- **Philippians 1:13** so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;
- The **WHOLE PALACE GUARD**
- **AND ALL THE REST**
- Who would have dreamed this opportunity



# Silver Lining # 1

## Furtherance of the Gospel

- **Philippians 1:14** and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
- More brethren have confidence
- There is more boldness to speak
- Preaching without fear

# Silver Lining # 1

## Furtherance of the Gospel

- **Philippians 1:14** and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
- More brethren have confidence
- There is more boldness to speak
- Preaching without fear
- Focus on the cloud or the silver lining?

## Cloud # 2

### Preaching with wrong motive

- **Philippians 1:15a** Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife,
- **Philippians 1:16** The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;
- Envy and Strife
- Selfish ambition, not sincere

## Cloud # 2

### Preaching with wrong motive

- **Envy** – because of Paul's success
- **Strife** – rivalry – Who would be the next Paul? I can take his place.
- **Selfish ambition** – not about Jesus and salvation, but all about ME!!!
- **Not sincere** - hypocrites

# Silver Lining # 2

## Christ is Preached!

- **Philippians 1:18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.
- Paul is not approving the wrong motives
- In spite of it – Christ is preached
- Paul was not jealous – but glad.

# IT IS ALL IN HOW YOU LOOK AT IT

- Cloud – Paul in chains
- Lining – Furtherance of the Gospel
  
- Cloud – Preaching with wrong motive
- Lining – Christ is preached!

