

THE SINGLE MIND IN JAMES 1:8 IT SAYS A DOUBLE MINDED MAN IS UNSTABLE IN ALL HIS WAYS THE REASON MANY CHRISTIANS ARE UPSET BY THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES IS BECAUSE THEY DO NOT CULTIVATE A SINGLE MIND

PAUL DID NOT LIVE TO ENJOY CIRCUMSTANCES HE LIVED TO SERVE CHRIST HE WAS A MAN WITH PURPOSE PHILIP 3:13 PAUL SAYS ONE THING I DO HE DOES NOT LOOK AT THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THEMSELVES BUT RATHER IN RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST HE LOOKED AT HIS CIRCUMSTANCES IN RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST AND THIS CHANGED EVERYTHING

PAUL DID NOT SEE HIMSELF AS A PRISONER IN ROME HE SAW HIMSELF AS A PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST PAUL DID NOT SEE HIMSELF AS FACING A CIVIL TRIAL PHILIP 1:13 BUT A DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL 1:17-18 AND THE PHILIPPIANS AS PARTAKERS OF THAT GRACE WITH HIM PHILIP 1:7

PAUL KNEW HE WAS IN A BATTLE FOR THE SOULS OF MEN AND HE WOULD NOT BE DISTRACTED BY HIS CIRCUMSTANCES

HE KEPT THE PHILIPPIANS IN HIS MIND PHILIP 1:3-6 REMEMBERING THEM WITH JOY BEING REMINDED OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE GOSPEL FROM THE FIRST DAY UNTIL NOW GOD HAD STARTED THE WORK IN THEM AND WOULD COMPLETE HIS WORK ACTS 16:6-12

HE KEPT THE PHILIPPIANS IN HIS HEART PHILIP 1:7-8 THEIR DEFENSE AND CONFIRMATION OF THE GOSPEL WAS EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACE THEIR LOVE FOR HIM AND HIS LOVE FOR THEM WAS CHRIST LOVE IN THEM AND THROUGH THEM

THE WORK GOD DOES FOR US IS SALVATION THE WORK GOD DOES IN US IS SANCTIFICATION AND THE WORK GOD DOES THROUGH US IS SERVICE OR LOVE IN ACTION HE WAS CHRIST TO THEM AND THEY WERE CHRIST TO HIM

HE KEPT THE PHILIPPIANS IN HIS PRAYERS PHILIP 1:9-11 THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO MATURE IN THEIR FAITH GROWING IN LOVE AND HOLINESS BEING USED BY GOD AS HIS SALT AND HIS LIGHT HAVING AN INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD AROUND THEM FOR THE DEFENSE AND CONFIRMATION OF THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL TO CHANGE LIVES ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

PAUL WAS NOT FOCUSED ON WHAT GOD WAS NOT DOING HE WAS FOCUSED ON ALL THAT GOD HAD DONE AND WOULD DO FOR HIM AND THE PHILIPPIANS BEING SURE OF WHAT HE HOPED FOR AND CERTAIN OF WHAT HE HAD NOT YET SEEN

PAUL'S FAITH AND HIS FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND HIS PHILIPPIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS BROUGHT HIM JOY

HIS CIRCUMSTANCES HAD BROUGHT HIM CLOSER TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH FAMILY THEY HAD NOT WEAKENED HIS FELLOWSHIP OR HIS DESIRE TO FURTHER THE GOSPEL IT STRENGTHENED HIM AND THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

PAUL'S MIND HEART AND PRAYERS WERE ALL CENTERED AROUND THE GOSPEL THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT SALVATION HE HAD NOT BEEN DISTRACTED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HIM RATHER THAN A STUMBLING BLOCK THEY HAD BECOME HIS STEPPING STONE

A PLATFORM TO PROCLAIM CHRIST AND TO GROW CLOSER TO JESUS AND OTHERS THE THIEF HAD COME TO STEAL HIS JOY BUT INSTEAD GOD USED IT FOR HIS GOOD HE LEARNED OBEDIENCE THROUGH THE THINGS HE SUFFERED HEB 5:8

OUR CIRCUMSTANCES ARE DESIGNED FOR OUR GROWTH FOR GREATER INTIMACY WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER THAT WE WOULD BE USEFUL VESSELS IN THE DEFENSE AND CONFIRMATION OF THE GOSPEL FELLOW HEIRS OF THE GRACE OF LIFE

LIKE PAUL OUR CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT DESIGNED TO DICTATE OUR JOY BUT TO GLORIFY CHRIST IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE GOSPEL UNITED IN LOVE AND SERVICE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE SALVATION OF SOULS

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS OUR STRENGTH AND THERE IS MORE JOY IN HEAVEN OVER ONE SINNER WHO REPENTS THAN NINETY NINE WHO NEED NO REPENTANCE LUKE 15:7 DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE ONLY GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING OUR HOPE AND JOY