

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 21/02/2021

Text(s): Philippians 1:9–18

Sermon Title: God Makes Use of Opposition

Preacher: Rev Jason Phua

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

Philippians 1:9–18 (ESV)

9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,

10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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. Yes, and I will rejoice,

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. Take a moment to jot down two to three major oppositions you have faced or are now facing in life, especially oppositions that were raised against what you thought was the right thing to do or believe in. Next, share with your group the story behind one of these oppositions you experienced. In what way were you opposed and for what reason? Why did they oppose you?**

2. **There are two parts to this next discussion question here. First, for the cases you jotted down in question #1, were you bitter about these events? Second, did you experience any good coming out of these events?**

3. **For every experience of opposition, it's good we ask ourselves these questions: Did I do something wrong? Was I opposed even though I did something good? How can we respond if it was because we did something wrong? How can we respond if it was because we did something good?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

1. **The preacher shared the story of Rev. Michael Wong who was opposed by his own mother. How would you respond to opposition from a loved one or a very close family member? Would you respond differently from if the opposition came from someone not well known to you?**

2. **As a final discussion question, what should be the overall perspective or attitude we may hold in every opposition we face? What was Paul's focus as he went about his work? Did that have any influence on the way he responded to oppositions?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)

- Pray for one another to have the peace of God deep in our hearts when opposition comes in order to be able to objectively evaluate the cause of the opposition.
- *Pray for our church to be a mature people of God who would not be quick to criticize and oppose one another but to accepting one another in love and humility.*
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.