

## Philippians 1:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> *I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,*

- *I want you to know, brothers,*
- *that what has happened to me*
- Acts 16:11–15 (ESV) - **The Conversion of Lydia**
- Acts 16:16–24 (ESV) - **Paul and Silas in Prison**
- Acts 16:25–40 (ESV) - **The Philippian Jailer Converted**
- Acts 17:1-9 (ESV) - **Paul and Silas in Thessalonica**
- Paul spends 3 Sabbaths reasoning with them with from the Scriptures
- Many believed (including devout Gentiles / leading women)
- and the Jews were jealous / they formed a mob
- Ultimately Paul and Salas had to leave
- Acts 17:10-15 - **Paul and Silas in Berea**
- The arrive in Berea – Many believed
- But Jews from Thessalonica leaned the Word of God was being proclaimed, they came there too. Causing trouble
- Paul departed for Athens
- but Salas and Timothy remained in Berea
- **Paul Addresses the Areopagus**
- **Acts 18 – Corinth** – the Jews made a united attack and brought Paul before the tribunal
- **Acts 19 – Ephesus** – Acts 19:21 “...Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, **I must also see Rome.**”
- **Romans 1:9–10 (ESV)**
- **Romans 15:30–33 (ESV)**
- Jews cause a riot in Ephesus – but to no avail
- **Acts 20 Caesarea**
- the Jews once again plot against him
- eventually Paul sets off for Jerusalem
- On his way to Jerusalem he calls for the Ephesus elders who come to him
- **Acts 20:18–24 (ESV)**
- **Acts 21** – Paul arrives in Jerusalem
- He visits James and the elders
- shares the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.
- While they glorify God,
- But some of the believing Jews are told that you teach other Jews to forsake the customs

## Philippians 1:12-26

- **Acts 21:23,24 (ESV)**
- Paul agrees
- But while he is in the temple
- Jews from Asia stirred up a crowd
- **Acts 21:28 (ESV)**
- He was dragged out of the temple
- But before they could kill him
- He was taken into custody by the Roman soldiers
- **Acts 22:25** – the Roman Tribune was about to have him flogged when he asks “*Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?*”
- **Acts 23** – Paul is brought before the council –
- Paul cleverly directs the conversation so that there’s a dispute between the Pharisees and Sadducees about the resurrection
- Later a there is a plot to kill Paul
- He is then sent to Felix the Governor
- **Acts 24** we see Paul spends 2 years in prison
- **Acts 25** Paul appeals to Caesar
- **Acts 27** Paul sails for Rome and is ship wrecked on Malta
- **Acts 28** He’s bitten by a viper
- **Acts 28:16 (ESV)** – where Paul stayed
- **Acts 28:20 (ESV)** – wearing this chain
- According to MacArthur Roman custom : guards chained every 6 hours
- **Acts 28:23 (ESV)** - testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus
- **Acts 28:30-31 (ESV)** – two years - proclaiming
- The Philippian church sends Epaphroditus –
  - Money
  - Companionship
  - Report back on his condition and the condition of the gospel

## Paul’s Response to Prison

### The effect on the gospel

#### Philippians 1:12 (ESV)

*<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,*

- *has really served to advance the gospel,*
  - We should note that advancement of the gospel of Paul usual involved opposition

*1 Corinthians 16:8-9 ESV But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, 9 for a wide door for effective work has opened to*

Philippians 1:12-26

me, and there are many **adversaries**.

*1 Thessalonians 2:1-2 ESV* For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. *2* But though we had already **suffered** and been **shamefully treated** at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God **in the midst of much conflict**.

*Acts 8:1-4 ESV* And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a **great persecution** against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all **scattered** throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. *2* Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. *3* But Saul was **ravaging the church**, and entering house after house, he **dragged off men and women** and committed them to prison. *4* Now those who were **scattered** went about preaching the word.

*Acts 11:19-21 ESV* Now those who were **scattered** because of the **persecution** that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. *20* But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. *21* And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

*Romans 8:28 ESV* And we know that for those who love God **all things** work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

## Philippians 1:12-26

*2 Timothy 2:1-9 ESV* You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, **2** and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. **3** Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. **5** An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. **6** It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. **7** Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. **8** Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, **9** for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!

The effect on the gospel

The effect on lost people

*Philippians 1:13 ESV* so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

- so that it has become known
  - not just because of his speaking the gospel
  - not just because of his graciousness
  - but he was suffering for Christ
- throughout the whole imperial guard
  - the praetorian guard
  - the personal, elite guards of the emperor himself
  - protectors of Rome
- and to all the rest,
  - everyone in the palace / even Rome
  - if a revival hit Congress ( the white house staff) ... we'd know
- that my chains **are** in Christ;
  - I'm a prisoner because I preach Christ
  - Acts 28:20 – bound with chains

*Acts 28:20 ESV* For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain."

- hal'-oo-sis - Short chain, placed over a wrist of a prisoner and soldier

## Philippians 1:12-26

- Escape was impossible ... I mean for the GUARD!!!

*Philippians 4:21-22 ESV Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.*

*The effect on the gospel*

*The effect on lost people*

The effect on believers

*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.*

- *and most of the brethren in the Lord,*
- **having become confident** by my chains,
- **are** much more bold to speak the word
- *without fear.*

Paul's Response to Prison

## Paul Response to Critics

The motives

*Philippians 1:15 ESV Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.*

- *Some*
- *indeed*
  - no doubt about, as surprising as it may seem
- **preach** Christ
  - These are not heretics
  - They had the same theology as Paul
  - Not Gal 1:6 ( not another gospel)
  - 2 cor 4:13 ( the same Spirit of faith)
- *even from envy and rivalry,*
  - *envy and rivalry*– they were jealous of Paul's giftedness, success, larger number of followers, he had directly encountered Jesus
  - MacArthur speculates about possible ways of attack:
    - they said that Paul had sin in his life,
    - or he doesn't know how to tap the power to burst out,
    - or the Lord wanted him out of the way and we're the ones you should listen to
    - if he really a man of God, he'd be martyred long ago: he must be playing politics
- *but others from good will:*
  - *goodwill* – the correct motive

v15) The motives

## Philippians 1:12-26

## The love

*Philippians 1:16 ESV* The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

- but the latter out of love,
- **knowing** that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.
  - They understood Paul was where he was because he was genuine

## The attacks

*Philippians 1:17 ESV* The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

- The former **preach** Christ from
  - selfish ambition,
    - they are trying to promote themselves and not Christ
    - No wonder Paul reminds the readers ...

*Philippians 2:3* Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

- not sincerely,
  - false motives
- thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment;
  - they wanted to hurt the reputation of Paul so they could be on top

## Paul's response

*Philippians 1:18 ESV* 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,

- What then?
  - So what!!!!
- Only that in every way,
- whether in pretense or in truth,
- Christ is **proclaimed**;
  - Even if the motive is insincere, truth is truth
- and in this I **rejoice**, yes,
- and **will rejoice**.
  - Continue to rejoice

Paul's Response to Prison  
Paul's Response to Critics

## Paul's Response to the Threat of Death

*Philippians 1:19* For I know

- Paul is confident

## Philippians 1:12-26

**NOTES: Paul's response was based on...**

The Prayer of Saints

*Philippians 1:19 ESV* that through your prayers

The Provision of the Spirit

*Philippians 1:19 ESV* and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ

*Galatians 5:22-23 ESV* But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

The Promises of Scripture

*Philippians 1:19 ESV* this will turn out for my deliverance,

- **this will turn out** for my deliverance
  - His current distress is temporary and he'll be delivered:
    - Ultimate salvation – by death
    - Release from court
    - According to MacArthur: A direct quote of Job 13:16 (in the original Hebrew text)
    - His conscience is clear

*Job 13:15-16 ESV* Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face. 16 This will be my salvation, that the godless shall not come before him.

*Romans 8:28* And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

The prayers of the Saints

The provision of the Spirit

The promises of Scripture

*Philippians 1:20 ESV* as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

- as it is my eager expectation and hope
- that I will not be at all ashamed,
- but that with full courage now
- as always Christ will be honored in my body,
- whether by life or by death..

*Rom 9:33* = He who believes on Him will not be disappointed

## Philippians 1:12-26

*Philippians 1:21* For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

- For to me, to live **is** Christ,
  - He is the reason for being (not just the source of his life)
- and to die **is** gain.



## Philippians 1:12-26

PAUL'S RESPONSE TO PRISON

PAUL'S RESPONSE TO CRITICS

PAUL'S RESPONSE TO DEATH

## Paul's Response to Life

## Paul's Dilemma

*Philippians 1:22 ESV* *If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.*

- *If I am to **live** in the flesh,*
  - This does not mean being sinful
  - But this means to live in this world
- *that means fruitful labor for me;*
  - to be alive in this world is to be engaged to fruitful work for Christ
  - work for the Kingdom
- *yet what I **shall choose** I cannot tell.*
  - To be with Christ / or to yield more fruit ... it's in the Lord's hands

## Paul's Desire

*Philippians 1:23 ESV* *I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.*

- *For I am hard-pressed between the two,*
- *having a desire to depart*
- *and be with Christ,*
  - He just wanted to be with Christ
- *which is far better.*

## Paul Devotion

*Philippians 1:24 ESV* *But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.*

- *But to remain in the flesh*
- *is more necessary on your account.*

NOTE: for those who say when someone dies they sleep until Christ comes Paul says it's better to depart and be with Christ

## Paul Determination (progress, joy and cause to glory)

*Philippians 1:25 ESV* *Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,*

- *Convinced of this,*
- *I know that I will remain and continue with you all,*

## Philippians 1:12-26

- *for your progress and joy in the faith*

*Philippians 1:26 ESV so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.*

- *so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.*

Probably released in AD63  
And in AD65 imprisoned again  
Only Luke was with him  
His friends forsook him  
And later beheaded