

Philippians 1:12-20 Nov 1, 2020

Phil 1:12-20 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, 13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, 14 and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. 15 Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; 16 the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; 17 the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, 19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

C. The gospel is preached (Phil 1:12-20)

How did Paul end up in chains in a Roman prison?

While he was visiting in Jerusalem, some Jews had arrested him for preaching the gospel; but he appealed to Caesar to hear his case (Ac 21:15 - 25:12). He was then escorted by soldiers to Rome, where he was placed under house arrest awaiting trial (not a trial for breaking civil law, but for proclaiming the good news of Christ). At that time, the Roman authorities did not consider this to be a serious charge. A few years later, however, Rome took a different view of Christianity and made every effort to put it out of existence. Paul's house arrest allowed him some degree of freedom. He could have visitors, continue to preach, and write letters. A brief record of Paul's time in Rome is found in Ac 28:11-31.

Paul's imprisonment turned out to further the progress of the gospel.

1. The whole praetorian guard heard the gospel.

The praetorian guard were the elite soldiers of the Roman army. They were handpicked to protect the emperor and the carry out the major armed functions of the state.

Paul was held in bonds (chains), which was a small length of chain that bound the prisoner to the wrist of a guard to prevent his escape. Paul was bound to a Roman guard every day and night for over two years. This is how they heard the gospel [Ac 28:10; Eph 6:20].

2. So did everyone else in the praetorium.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. [2 Tim 1:8; 2 Tim 1:12, 16]

3. Other believers gain far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

Paul rejoiced that the gospel was being preached (15-18).

From pure motives	From wrong motives
To further the gospel	Selfish ambition
Good will	Envy (ill-will)
Out of love	Strife (conflict resulting from rivalry and discord)
In truth	In pretense (an outward show or appearance)
To encourage Paul	To cause distress to Paul

Paul's response that the gospel was preached by those who sought to cause him harm (18)

I will rejoice - to rejoice, to be glad, to celebrate, to leap for joy

Some Christians we're jealous of Paul and envious of:

the call, ministry given to him by God

the results he was having

the attention and prestige he was getting from society

the support and loyalty other believers were giving to him

the position he was gaining as the leader of the Christian community in Rome

We all are ministers and workers in the work of the gospel. Each one has an individual call; and God requires us to be faithful to that call. Therefore, there is no place for envy, strife, or competition between Christians and ministries. We must support and encourage others in the work of the gospel. [1Cor 4:1-2]

Two things that could help Paul be released from prison (19)

Their prayers [Rom 15:30; 2Cor 1:11; Eph 6:19; 1Thes 5:25; 2Thes 3:1; Ph'm 1:22; Heb 13:18]

The provision (to supply support, to give aid, to help) of the Spirit.

Paul's earnest desire (20)

earnest expectation = is used only here and Rom 8:19. A watching with the head erect or outstretched. It describes straining one's neck to catch a glimpse of something that is ahead.

That he would not bring shame to the cause of Christ.

That he would boldly speak for Christ. –

[The Greek word translated "boldness" gives us the key to the understanding of the sentence, "in nothing I shall be ashamed." It means literally "all speech," thus, "freedom of speech."]

Christ would be exalted in his body whether he lives or dies.

Note: Our identity and confession as believer's in Christ

I am a bondservant of Jesus Christ (Phil 1:1).

I am a saint in Christ Jesus (Phil 1:1).

God is working in me (Phil 1:6).

I am a partaker of grace (Phil 1:7).

I am abounding in love more and more (Phil 1:9).

God is teaching me, so that I approve things that are excellent (Phil 1:10).

God is teaching me, to be sincere and live without offense (Phil 1:10).

I am being filled with the fruit of righteousness (Phil 1:11).

I have boldness to speak God's word without fear (Phil 1:14).

I will rejoice when I see others proclaim the gospel (Phil 1:15-18).

I will pray on behalf of others (Phil 1:19).

I will speak boldly to others about Christ Jesus (Phil 1:20).

I will glorify Christ with my body (Phil 1:20).

References Used:

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