

Series "Joy In Christ"
"Opportunities Of Obstacles"
Philippians 1:12-19
Study-4

Philippians 1 – Joy In Living:

Philippians 1:12-19 Opportunities Of Obstacles:
Philippians 1:20-26 Blessing Of Life And Death:
Philippians 1:27-30 Be Good Citizens Of Heaven:

Philippians 1:12-26 Paul Deals With The Christians' New Attitude.

"Being In circumstances," Not The Same As "Being Under circumstances."

Thought Of Our Passage: "We Cannot Control Our Circumstances, But God Is In Control, So We Must Focus Upon Him And His Opportunities."

- 1. Verses 12-14 Confidence Despite Hardship:**
- 2. Verses 15-18 Joyful Despite Others:**
- 3. Verse 19 Hopeful Despite Uncertainties:**

1. Verse 12-14 Confidence Despite Hardship:

Philippians 1:12 Now

Context - We left off with Paul's prayer for the believers, and he had concluded with these words. **Philippians 1:11**

**Results of a life that is sincere and without offense:
having been filled with the fruit of righteousness**

This speaks of our character and service before man.

I want you to know, brethren,

(Philippians were concerned about Paul. Paul wants them to know God has blessed him) They had sent a messenger **Philippians 2:25**

that my circumstances (KJV) "*those things*"

What are those things that Paul is referring to?

Paul's arrest on false charges, taken to Rome, and then under house arrest. Paul was not bitter about his circumstances.

Why Do Christians Suffer? (Four Answers)

1. We suffer because we don't judge the sin in our lives. **1 Corinthians 11:31-32**
2. We suffer to grow in our Christian character, **Romans 5:3-5**, patience, hope.
3. We suffer to prevent sin in our lives. **2 Corinthians 12** Paul's thorn kept him humble.
4. We suffer because God increases the effectiveness of our Christian testimony – **Philippians 1:** Paul's situation. (Gospel spreading, Christians emboldened)

"My Circumstances" There are two extremes we can fall into:

1. *Some Talk Too Much About Themselves* -

2. Others Say Too Little About Themselves - James 5:14

have turned out (*"opportunity was on the other side of the obstacle"*) **for the greater progress** The word "**progress**" Is a military term meaning "*Pioneer advance.*" *It was the army engineers who went before the troops to open the way to the new territory.*

God was behind this whole "*Pioneer advance*" at Philippi! (**Acts 16:6-10**)

The Great Truth, The Righteous Do Suffer!

greater progress of the gospel, (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

This is the good news: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Father accepted the payment for our sins. New birth, reconciliation, became God's Sons.

Affliction Produces Christian Character:

In Two Ways God Used Paul's Chains?

Philippians 1:13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ

"Paul's relationship to Christ had been made clear to the guards"

2 Timothy 2:9

1. Verse 13 Paul's Personal Witness With Non-Christians:

It became well known - Ephesians 3:1 "prisoner of Christ Jesus" 4:1

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, God had him in prison for His purpose.

Acts 28:20 constantly chained (Four Years)

Ephesians 6:10-20 The Armor of God

throughout the whole praetorian guard (K.J.V)

Philippians 1:13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other [places];

The word "*palace*" is the word **praetorian**, which was translated "*building.*" In the seventeenth century, they have uncovered ancient manuscripts that state that the word **praetorian** stood for "*people.*" Barracks, imperial palace, and judicial authorities.

and to everyone else,

It went beyond just the guards but others came to hear.

Philippians 4:21-22

The great secret of Paul is that he had a single mind for the Lord.

Genesis 50:20 (Joseph said to his brothers)

2. Verse 14 Paul's Chains Encouraged Believers To Action:

Philippians 1:14 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.

There was a new boldness that took over the believers. (Most of the brethren)

have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

"to a much greater degree they are daring to speak the Word of God without fear" **Psalm 40:3**

Great Truth: People Are Watching Us.

Has our life had an encouraging effect on other Christians?

Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 1:7

2. Verses 15-18 Joyful Despite Others:

Philippians 1:15 Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ Jesus Christ was being preached, but there were **Two Motives behind preaching Christ.**

1. Envy and Strife, 2. Goodwill!

We should preach the right message for the right motive.

are preaching Christ - The Gospel - is the message of Jesus Christ. It is preaching Jesus. He is the center, He is essential. His death for our sins.

Romans 5:6 Christ died for the ungodly.

(Who Are The Ungodly?) every human

Preaching Christ from Wrong Motives:

preaching Christ even from envy and strife,

envy - Jealousy, *"this is jealousy over the man Paul."*

"It is wanting what another possesses."

and strife,

They love to fight. They did not care if some of their own people were shot in the process. *They even enjoyed taking shots at other Christians.*

17 selfish ambition, (contention partisan purposes)

It was a term that was used to denote *"Working for pay."*

The person who works just for pay

Preaching Christ from Good Will: some also from good will; out of love

Philippians 1:16 the latter do it out of love, Greatest of all motives.

Galatians 2:20

knowing that I am appointed

"God had chosen Paul for this task"

for the defense of the gospel;

defense - *apologia* - we get *apologetics*.

Philippians 1:17 out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives,
(They claim it's the gospel but really themselves)

Self-Seeking Opportunist Promoting Themselves At Paul's Expense:
thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. (*annoy and irritate Paul*)

Philippians 1:18 What then?

"Or we would say, "*And what should we do in light of these Christian Troublemakers? What does it matter?*"

Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.

The message was Jesus Christ.

The Methods, The Motives, The Message.

Paul was most concerned with the **Message.**

Christ is proclaimed; That should be our concern, too.

1 Corinthians 4:5

3. Verse 19 Hopeful Despite Uncertainties:

Philippians 1:19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance

Notice Paul's surety of deliverance would come. *The security of Scripture.*

my deliverance - Salvation - well-being -

What has happened to Paul is the best thing for time and eternity.

That Paul knows that in the end he will be vindicated. **Job 13:18**

Effective Prayers: through your prayers

God was going to use the believers in prayer.

Philippians 1:9 And this I pray,

Provision Of The Holy Spirit:

and the provision "*to see and provide*"

of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, God was the source.

"Pray As If It Depends On God, And Work As If It Depends On You!"

Application:

1. Paul's Chains: Paul saw God In The Obstacles. Opportunities To Reach The Unsaved, And To Encourage The Believers To Be Bold In Their Own Witness.

2. Paul's Critics: Paul Focused On The Big Picture. The Message, Not Motive Or Method. He Placed His Critics In God's Hands.

3. Paul's Hope: Was In God, Who Always Hears The Prayers Of His Children. Who Alone Has All Power To Accomplish His Purpose.