

LESSON 3: Three-Pioneers Wanted

More than anything else, Paul's desire as a missionary was to _____, The hub of the great empire, Rome was the key city of its day. If Paul could conquer it for Christ, It would mean reaching millions with the message of salvation. It was critically important to Paul's agenda, for he said, *"After I have been there (Jerusalem), I MUST also see Rome" (Acts 19:21).*

From Corinth he wrote, *"So, as much as is in me, I am READY (EAGER) to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also" (Romans 1:15).*

Paul wanted to go to Rome as a preacher, but Instead he went as a prisoner! He could have written a long letter about that experience alone. Instead, he sums it all up as "the things which happened to me" (*Philippians 1:12*). The record of these things is given In *Acts 21:17-28:31*. It begins with Paul's illegal arrest In the Temple in Jerusalem. The Jews thought he had desecrated their temple by bringing in Gentiles. The Romans thought he was an Egyptian renegade who was on their "most wanted" list.

Paul became the focal point of both political and religious plots and remained a prisoner in Caesarea for two years. When he finally appealed to Caesar (which was the privilege of every Roman citizen), he was sent to Rome. En route, his ship was wrecked! The account of that storm and Paul's courage and faith is one of the most dramatic In the Bible (*Acts 27*). After three months of waiting on the Island of Malta, Paul finally embarked for Rome and the trial he had requested before Caesar.

To many, all of this would have looked like failure, but not to this man with a
" _____ " concerned with sharing Christ and the gospel. Paul
did not find his joy in ideal circumstances; he found his joy in winning others to Christ. And, If
his circumstances promoted the _____ of the gospel, that was all that mattered.

The word "furtherance" means _____.

It is a _____ referring to the army
engineers who go before the troops to open the way into new territory. Instead of finding
himself confined as a prisoner, Paul discovered that his circumstances really opened up new
areas of ministry.

God still wants His children to take the gospel into new areas. He wants us to be pioneers, and
sometimes He arranges circumstances so that we can be nothing else but pioneers. In fact, that
is how the Gospel originally came to Philippi! Paul had tried to enter other territory, but God
had repeatedly shut the door (**Acts 16:6-10**). Paul wanted to take the message eastward into
Asia, but God directed him to take it westward into Europe. What a difference would have
been made in the history of mankind if Paul had been permitted to follow his plan!

God sometimes uses _____ to help us pioneer the gospel. In
Paul's case, there were three tools that helped him take the gospel even to the elite Praetorian
Guard, Caesar's special troops: his _____ (**Philippians 1:12-14**), his
_____ (**Philippians 1:15-19**) and his _____ (**Philippians 1:20-26**).

When you have a _____ you look at your circumstances as
God-given opportunities for the furtherance of the gospel and you rejoice at what God is
_____ to do instead of complaining about what God did not do. How did Paul
use these three difficulties to further the gospel?

1. Paul's chains (**Philippians 1:12-14**) His chains gave him contact with the _____. They also gave courage to the saved to not speak with fear.
Vs:14 "Speak" means _____. Paul's joyful attitude enabled the believers in Rome to take fresh courage and witness boldly. Because legal matters were so important to the Romans, all were speaking about what was happening with Paul.

2. Paul's critics (**Philippians 1:15-19**) :16 "Contention" means TO _____, to get people to support you". (Religious politics) Others wanted to gain a following for themselves but Paul wanted them for Christ. When you are single minded you look upon your critics as an opportunity to further the gospel. Criticism is usually very hard to take, particularly when we are in difficult circumstances. How could he rejoice at such a difficult time? :19 He was expecting things to turn out victoriously, thru _____ and the "supply" of the Holy Spirit of God. Supply: _____ & _____ He knew he was appointed for the defense of the gospel.

3. Paul's Crisis (1:20-26) Because of His crisis, Christ was _____! How can Christ be magnified in our lives? When believers go thru trials, others are watching, The reality of Jesus is seen thru the way we handle ourselves in crisis. To the Christian with the single mind, Christ is with us HERE and NOW.
 - Now Paul was facing the difficult situation: remain alive or go to be with God. Paul decided that Christ would have him remain for the furtherance of

the gospel. :12 and also for the furtherance and joy of their faith. He wanted them to make a pioneer advance.

- :23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ which is far better. Departing has four meanings: 1. Soldier

_____ 2. Sailors: to loosen a _____/

_____. 3. Political term which means to _____

_____. 4. Departure was

a farmers term meaning "to unyoke the oxen".

No matter how you look at it, nothing can steal a man's joy if he possesses the single mind.

Philippians 1:21 "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain." IF WE ARE GOING TO MAINTAIN JOY IN OUR LIFE - THIS MUST BE OUR INTENTIONAL MINDSET - WE LIVE FOR HIM.

LESSON 4: Battle Stations

The Christian life is not a playground. It is a _____. We are sons/daughters in the family, enjoying the fellowship of the gospel (*Philippians 1 :1-11*); we are servants sharing in the furtherance of the gospel (*Philippians 1:12-16*), but we are also _____ defending the faith of the gospel! And the believer with the single mind can have the Joy of the Holy Ghost even in the midst of battle.

"The faith of the gospel" is that _____ given to the church. Jude calls it "*the faith which was once delivered to the saints ...* " (*Jude 3*). Paul warns in *1 Timothy 4:1* that "*In the latter times some shall depart from the faith ...* " God committed this spiritual treasure to Paul (*1 Timothy 1:11*), and he, in turn, _____ like Timothy (*1 Timothy 6:20*), whose responsibility was to commit this deposit to still others (*2 Timothy 2:2*). This is why the Church must engage in a _____ so that _____ will know, appreciate and use the great heritage of the faith.

But there is an enemy who is out to steal this treasure from God's people. Paul had met the enemy in Philippi, and he was now facing him in Rome. If Satan can rob believers of their faith, the _____ that are distinctly theirs, then he can cripple and defeat the ministry of the gospel. It is sad to hear people say, "I don't care what you believe, just so long as you live right." WHAT WE _____ DETERMINES HOW WE _____ AND WRONG BELIEF ULTIMATELY MEANS _____.

Each local church is but one generation short of potential extinction. No wonder Satan attacks our young people in particular, seeking to get them away from "the faith."

How can Christians fight this enemy?

"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh" (2 Corinthians 10:4 NASB). Peter took up a sword in the garden, and Jesus rebuked him (*John 18:10-11*). We must use spiritual weapons: the Word of God and prayer (*Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:11-18*); and we must depend on the Holy Spirit to give us the power we need. But an army must fight together, and this is why Paul sends these admonitions to his friends at Philippi. He is explaining in this paragraph that there are three essentials for victory in the battle to protect "the faith:"

1. Consistency (*Philippians 1:27a*)

Conversation means: _____.

"only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ:" _____

2. Cooperation (*Philippians 1:27b*)

Athletics: Striving together _____

3. Confidence (*Philippians 1:28-30*): a horse shying away from the battle.

Here are three encouragements that give us confidence in the battle:

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

So the _____ enables us to have joy in the midst of battle because it produces in us consistency cooperation and confidence. We experience the joy of “spiritual teamwork” as we strive together for the faith of the gospel!!