

For Memorization – Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first for the Jew and then for the Greek.”

Paul Explains his Circumstances

Note the repeated reference to imprisonment

Vs. 12 – “what was happened to me”

Vs. 13 – “my imprisonment”

Vs. 14 – “my imprisonment” (again)

Vs. 16 – “*I am put here* for the defense of the Gospel”

Vs. 17 – “my imprisonment.”

What is Paul’s imprisonment like?

House arrest.

The imperial guard rotated on a four-hour shift.

Paul views his imprisonment as a Gospel opportunity!

The imperial guard is evangelized. This is the emperor’s elite guard if he is in Rome.

The brothers are strengthened.

So he rejoices that the Gospel is proclaimed.

How should we relate to our circumstances?

Our circumstances have no correlation to what God thinks of us in any given moment.

We should view our circumstances as a God-ordained opportunity to glorify him and magnify Christ.

Going Deeper

Inspiration

Example of his leadership

Truth of his conviction

Evidence of transformation

Resolve & Focus

Who are the people trying to “afflict” Paul?

What does Paul take comfort in?

Paul’s ultimate mission – the glory of God.

Story: William Carey

Accomplishments: Ended sati, infant sacrifice, started schools for impoverished children, around 700 conversions, helped begin to overturn the caste system.

Trials and Suffering: Lost two children, including his eldest son. His first wife had a nervous breakdown and never recovered. Could be heard ranting and raving at all hours. Two coworkers died in 1800, two more in 1801. Endured hostility from many of the native Indian people.

What does it take for the Gospel to go forward? A person willing to speak it.