

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers, that **what has happened to me** *Nero – Acts 28:30-31*

*For **two whole years** Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him.*

³¹ Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.)

Famous letters from Prison Apostle Paul / Dr. King / Dietrich Bonhoffer / John Bunyan

WHY such profound words – quiet, True Freedom

has really served to **advance** the gospel. *(History)* ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the **whole palace guard** and to everyone else that I am in **chains** for **Christ**. *Phil. 4:22*

(How was he chained?) ¹⁴ Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God **more courageously** and **fearlessly**.

(How will persecution begin in the United States)

1. 501C3 – Declared Unconstitutional – Gives Gov't Benefits to those who DISCRIMINATE against the CIVIL rights of others
2. Congress will QUICKLY pass a NEW law → all you have to do is DENY one part of the Word of God. → Genesis 2
3. Most of the Churches - 80-90% will AGREE
4. Steadily more legal restrictions against the "Discriminators"

(Take ADVANTAGE of THIS season)

¹⁵ It is **true** that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but **others** out of **goodwill**. ¹⁶ The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can **stir up trouble** for me while I am in **chains**. ¹⁸ But what does it matter? *(Amazing Response)* The **important** thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

(Response to church splits / hurt by churches?)

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in **no way be ashamed**, but will have **sufficient courage** so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, **whether by life** or by **death**. *(Faith)*

²¹ **For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.** ²² If I am to **go on living** in the body, this will mean **fruitful labor** for me. *(Why do I want to live longer?)* Yet what shall I **choose?** *(HOW did he have a choice?)* I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I **desire** to **depart** and be with Christ, which is **better** by far; *(I confess to a longing)* ²⁴ but it is **more necessary** for you that I **remain** in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again **your joy** in Christ Jesus will **overflow** on **account** of me.