

**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 Bonhoeffer / 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.