

Rejoicing In Circumstances

Philippians 1:12-14



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12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, 13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, 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.



Paul's Current Example

- Faced attempts on His life (23:12-15) (25:3)
- Imprisoned in Caesarea for 2 years and purposely passed over for release for political reasons (24:27)
- Stood on trial three times on false accusation (25-26)
- Forced to appeal to Caesar (25:11)
- Blown off course by a hurricane, shipwrecked (27-28)
- Imprisoned for 2 more years in Rome! (28:30-31)



Philippians

Php 1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

Php 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. 18 You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

Php 2:28 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you.

Php 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

Php 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Php 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.

Rejoice?!

- *khah'ee-ro* full of cheer, calmly happy, well off
- 9 times in this 4 chapter epistle
- With all that Paul encountered in Philippi
- With all that he has encountered since then
- Reminder to the church in Philippi to rejoice?
- How?!

Paul Was Not Alone

- Silas was with him in Philippi (Acts 16)
- Timothy is with him in Rome (Philippians 1:1)
- All are called to have personal relationship with God
- Personal does not mean solitary and individual!
- We are the body of Christ
- Christian walk is not an individual walk--community

Thankfulness

- Choosing to focus on what God has done
- Choosing not to focus on what God has yet to do
- Choosing to be thankful of the body of Christ (1:3-11)
 - Their own growth
 - Their concern for him
- Choosing to be thankful and content

Circumstances

- Circumstances are not the final verdict
- Circumstances are the means He chooses for His ends
- Circumstances are the middle of the story
- Circumstances are what make a story worth it
- Circumstances are an opportunity for the Gospel
- Circumstances are encouraging others watching us!

God is/has been Faithful

- How quickly we forget what God has ALREADY done
- How swift we are to discount our past circumstances
- Past circumstances = God's Track Record!
- He has brought us through thus far!
- What of the yet unanswered ones? Grace for today!