



**The Joy of Being Locked Up
Philippians 1:12-14
June 2, 2019**

Takeaway:

One of the greatest measures of a person's spiritual maturity can be measured in what it takes to steal their joy. Paul's maturity is evident in the present text as he makes it clear that difficult, unpleasant, painful, even life-threatening circumstances did not rob him of joy but rather caused it to increase.

Food for thought:

People are unhappy because they view their lives as prisons. Many people feel trapped by aspects of their life, trapped in an unhappy marriage, trapped in an unfulfilling job, or they are basically unhappy with their life despite basic needs being met.

John MacArthur:

"Although it is a gift from God to every believer and administered by the Holy Spirit joy is not always constant and full. The only certain cause for loss of joy in a believer's life is sin, which corrupts his fellowship with the Lord, who is the source of joy. Such sinful attitudes as dissatisfaction, bitterness, hostility, doubt, fear, and negativism cause joy to be forfeited. Consequently, the only way to restore lost joy is to repent and return to proper worship of and obedience to God.

I. Paul's Passion Concerning the Gospel is Contagious

Philippians 1:5 (NKJV) For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

Philippians 1:7 (NKJV) Just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

Philippians 1:12 (NKJV) But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,

Philippians 1:17 (NKJV) But the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

Philippians 1:27 (NKJV) Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

Romans 1:15 (NKJV) As much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

Romans 15:20 (NKJV) It has always been my desire to preach the gospel where Jesus Christ has not been known.

II. Paul's Problems Concerning the Gospel is Certain

Food for thought:

Anytime you have a godly passion you will find great problems. Why? Because Satan fights people who try to win people to Jesus. Satan doesn't give up his territory easy. The Great Commission will bring great conflict!

Philippians 1:12 (NKJV) But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.

III. Paul's Perspective Concerning the Gospel is Crucial

Philippians 1:12-13 (NKJV) But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, ¹³So that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ.

The gospel is furthered in three ways:

1. Through the soldiers
2. Through the citizens

The longest period of Paul's imprisonment was the greatest period of Paul's influence. In other words; Paul's confinement, was God's assignment. The prison was his pulpit.

3. Through the saints

Philippians 1:14 Most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.