

# Philippians Part 2 HANDOUT

11/19/23

**PHIL. 1:12-14** Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

- We are reminded that God can change the most trying and difficult situations that we are in, no matter what...God can use them for GOOD!

How does this apply to our lives? Have you ever felt like a prisoner?

- House full of kids - all the responsibilities
- What is restricting you?

**PHIL. 1:15-17** It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup> The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

- Some of the preaching taking place was under the right motives.
- Some were preaching out of rivalry with Paul.

**PHIL. 1:18** But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

- The most surprising thing about this text is the way Paul's celebration of gospel truth overrides his sorrow at defective motives.
- Paul valued the truth of the gospel even more highly than you value the attitudes of those who preach it.

**PHIL. 1:19-20** for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my

deliverance. <sup>20</sup> 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.

- Christians living and dying have a new meaning and purpose.

**PHIL. 1:21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

- Jesus is his entire focus - reason for living

**PHIL. 1:22-26** If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup> I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup> but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>25</sup> 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, <sup>26</sup> so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

- Ultimately, he concludes that it is good for him to remain, even though he is suffering because it encourages the people of God.

**KEY:** Our lives serve a purpose greater than ourselves.

**PHIL. 1:27-30** Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. <sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup> since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Pursuing unity is a response to the love, encouragement, and impact Jesus has had on their lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Life POINT:** The greater purpose of my suffering on earth is to bring God glory, serve other Christians, and reach the world for Christ!