

Philippians

CHAPTER 1:12-18

Lesson 2

This portion of Philippians reveals Paul's circumstances at the time when he wrote this letter to the believers in Philippi. How valuable it is to know that this letter was not being written from a lap of luxury, but from a place of *chains*. Often, we ignore someone's exhortation because we believe they don't understand; they haven't been there. Paul knows loneliness and suffering. As you begin this study, ask the Lord to work in you Paul's attitude of rejoicing.

Overview - Read Philippians Chapter 1

1. A helpful tool in understanding the text is to mark contrasts. A contrast is the comparison of two things that are different or opposite such as light/darkness. Many times, a contrast is noted by the word *but*. The words being contrasted may not be in the same verse. Using the Observation Worksheet for Philippians chapter one, list the contrasts, noting the verse or verses that apply.
 1. *chains /furtherance of the gospel (7,12)*

2. As you read Philippians 1:12-18 in the context of the entire chapter, what do you think was Paul's purpose in writing these verses to the believers in Philippi?

Read Philippians 1:12-18

1. *Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him... Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him* (Luke's report of Paul's imprisonment from Acts 28:16, 30,31). Although Paul was not confined to the depths of a moldy prison dungeon, he was confined - prevented from going where he pleased, chained to a guard 24 hours a day for two years, and his fellowship limited to those who would come to see him. After reading Philippians 1:12-18, describe Paul's attitude.

2. Paul wrote to the Romans (8:28), *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.* Paul was given the opportunity to see some of the good that had resulted from his imprisonment. List some of the results of Paul's imprisonment according to Philippians 1:12-18.

- a. Share some things you know that help and encourage you when you are in a trial.

Read Philippians 1:12

1. Epaphroditus had told Paul that the church in Philippi was concerned about his imprisonment. According to verse 12, what did Paul want the Philippians to know?

2. God is the Master of all circumstances. He will always be ultimately victorious. Choose one of the following and write about the seemingly dim circumstances and the resulting victory: Joseph; the Israelites escape from Egypt; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace; Daniel in the lions' den; the crucifixion of Jesus Christ; the persecution of the Jews in Acts; Satan's attempts to destroy Israel in Revelation.

a. How does thinking about God's power to turn what the enemy means for evil into something good motivate you to trust God in your circumstances?

3. In most of the circumstances listed in question #2, each person had their part in the victory that God performed. What was Paul's part in the fact that his imprisonment had led to the *furtherance of the gospel*?

a. What are you called to do when you are in a trial?

"It is our business to see that we do right,
God will see that we come out right."
- Donald Gray Barnhouse

Read Philippians 1:13

1. Paul's witness had not only affected the guard(s) who were assigned and chained to him. What had *become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest*?

a. Although Paul could be physically chained, what is not chained? See 2 Timothy 2:9.

2. Read Ephesians 6:19,20. What did Paul request prayer for?

- a. How does this encourage you when you feel condemned for a lack of boldness in sharing the gospel?

- b. Rather than a prisoner of man, what did Paul call himself in Ephesians 6:20?
 - 1.) Paul was known throughout the palace guard. What would you like to be known for?

Personal: What are you doing towards that end?

3. *For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!* (I Corinthians 9:16) What is Paul saying here?

- a. The word *necessity* implies that Paul was compelled; that he felt like he just had to *preach the gospel*. Sometimes we look at Paul's zeal for the Lord and use the excuse that he had a Damascus Road experience and we have not. What are some of the things that every Christian has that should equally compel us to witness for Jesus?

Read Philippians 1:14-17

1. How did Paul's imprisonment effect the testimony of others (verse 14)?

2. Do you know of someone's testimony that has influenced your life? If so, reflect on how they affected you.

3. *Some* were preaching Christ *from good will* (verse 15). How were others *preaching* (verses 15,16)?
 - a. According to I Corinthians 13:1-3, what is the result for those who preach the gospel with wrong motives?
 - 1.) What must the motive be for all we do?

Read Philippians 1:18

1. Although some men were selfishly preaching Christ, even intent on making things worse for Paul, what was Paul's response in Philippians 1:18?
2. In days of competition and striving amongst churches, how does Paul's attitude refresh you?
3. Adversity is a showcase for your faith. The challenges of life often reveal what we are really all about; what we really believe. Paul's imprisonment tested his beliefs; men tested his patience. Both revealed that Paul was confident in what he believed. How has Paul's example inspired you to change your attitude and your reactions?

“Please grant that I shall never waste my pain; for
To fail without learning, to fall without getting up,
To sin without overcoming, to be hurt without forgiving,
To be discontent without improving, to be crushed without becoming more caring,
To suffer without growing more sensitive,
Makes of suffering a senseless, futile exercise, a tragic loss,
And of pain, the greatest waste of all.”
- D. Innes

May this be our prayer. And may the circumstances in our lives
lead to the *furtherance of the gospel* of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Review: Read Philippians 1:12-18

1. How has Paul's example encouraged you to speak the *word without fear*?
2. Paul chose to *rejoice* whenever Christ is *preached*. What qualifiers might you add?
3. What is the overall message of this lesson?

*For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of,
for necessity is laid upon me; yes,
woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!
- 1 Corinthians 9:16*

THE PURPOSES AND BENEFITS OF AFFLICTION

SCRIPTURE	PURPOSE OR BENEFIT
Numbers 21:7	Leads to confession of sin
Deuteronomy 4:30,31	Turns us to God / He will not forsake or destroy us, nor forget His promises
Deuteronomy 8:2	Tries our faith and obedience
Job 23:10	We shall come forth as gold
Job 34:31; Psalm 119:67	Keeps us from sinning
Psalm 34:19	The LORD will deliver us
Psalm 66:10	Refines
Psalm 119:71	Teaches us the will of God
Psalm 119:75	Exhibits God's faithfulness
Psalm 126:5	Ends in joy
Jonah 2:1	Leads us to seek God in prayer
John 11:4	Promotes the glory of God
John 15:2	Enables us to bear more fruit
John 16:33	Is to be expected
Romans 5:3,4; James 1:3	Produces perseverance, character and hope
Romans 8:28	Will work together for the good
2 Corinthians 4:17	Is comparatively light and momentary
2 Corinthians 12:7	Humbles us
Philippians 1:12	Promotes the furtherance of the gospel
Hebrews 12:6	Exhibits God's love
James 1:12	Crown of life for enduring

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