

GSM

Philippians 1:12-19

Rick McFarland

02/10/09

I. Philippians 1:12- Paul's Imprisonment

A. **would-** Gr. **boulomai-** *reasoned purpose*

1. Paul had a reason for sharing his troubles with the Philippians. He wanted to teach God's principles in it.
2. We should share with our congregation what problems we go through from time to time in our own lives, but we need to make sure it has a **redeeming purpose** in it and it teaches and edifies others.

B. **understand-** present active / Gr. **ginosko-** *to know in a more progressive and deeper way*

1. Paul wanted the Philippians to progressively learn a lesson by looking at Paul's situation he was in; that is why he is sharing it.

C. **the things that happened to me-** Gr. **ta kata-** *the things against me/the things to bring me down-* kata can mean against or down.

1. Satan had sent circumstances against Paul to bring him down-to dominate him.
2. Satan will send circumstances against us to bring us down and dominate us, however if we learn what Paul knew then we will see those things turned for our good.

D. **turned out-** perf. active / Gr. **erchomai-** *have arrived at or come about-* Perfect tense speaks of an abiding effect.

E. **furtherance-** Gr. **proskope-** from pros- before; kopto- to cut / *to cut in advance*. This word was used for Roman wood cutter troops that would go in advance of the Roman army and would cut down dense forests so the army could advance directly and efficiently instead of having to circle around the forests. These advance troops would blaze a trail for the army to follow unimpeded.

1. Paul is saying that what Satan has used against me to dominate me and bring me down actually has been turned around and is working for him! Instead of dominating him, his imprisonment and bonds are actually were like a troop of wood cutters opening up the way for the gospel to go where it could not before. His

imprisonment was blazing a trail for the gospel to be preached to the most influential people in the known world.

2. What Satan sends to destroy you, God can make it work for you and you be in better shape on the other side than you ever would have been otherwise. When the Devil starts messin God starts blessin if you will but trust Him!

3. God can even use your mistakes and redeem them and bless you in spite of them in way that you would not have if it had not happened.

4. Paul was an example of this: he was in prison because he was bent on going to Rome and preaching to the Jews. Even though he was in prison because of his hard head, God was using it for His glory and to blaze a new trail for the gospel.

II. Philippians 1:13- His bonds shine!

A. **bonds-** Gr. **desmon-** *bands, shackles*

B. In Christ- He was there for the preaching of Christ, not for sinful behavior.

C. **manifest-** Gr. **phaneros-** *shining-* He shackles were shining for all to see. All could see Paul was there for Christ's sake and not his own. This put Christ and His gospel on full display for all to see.

D. When Satan tries to put his shackles on you to destroy you, God will make them shine for His glory if you will but trust Him. He will turn them for your good and for His purpose. There are circumstances Satan tries to put on you that feel like shackles. He tries to put shackles of sickness on you. He tries to put shackles of financial problems on you. He tries to put shackles of relationship problems on you. If you trust Him, God will break what binds you. However, many times before he breaks what binds, he will cause them first to shine- as a testimony to others. Either your shackles will shine forth and blind the enemy or others will see you vindicated and to be in the right. His glory shines forth through God turning around that which Satan has attacked you with.

1. This was true of Joseph

2. This was true of Daniel

E. **palace-** Gr. **praetorium-** *praetorium guard-* These were 10,000 soldiers in Rome. Their barracks were attached to the Emperor's palace. They got double pay and had great influence and power.

Even the emperor courted their favor to keep some from overthrowing him. These were the soldiers that were chained to Paul on intervals of six hours called watches. These men thought that Paul was there prisoner, but indeed they were his prisoner! They had to be chained to him and hear about Jesus the whole time. Paul was starting to win these guards to the Lord and people in Caesar's household were coming to the faith through their witness. [**Phil. 4:22**]

F. In all other places- word was getting out every where about Paul and his stand for the gospel

1. Ex. Watchman Nee was in prison for 20 years but his writing went all around the world why he sat silent in the jail.

III. **Philippians 1:14-17 Two types of brothers**

A. When you are going through a trial or you make a leadership decision you will have two groups show up. Those that are **for ya** and those that are **agin' ya**.

B. Paul got to meet these two groups as soon as he entered prison.

C. **Vs. 14; 17-** First group- those who loved the Lord- many- Gr. **pleion**- the major part- Most Christians are of this group.

1. **preached more boldly**- They saw and heard of the bold example of Paul even in prison and said, "If Paul can preach the gospel in there and be so bold, we sure can preach it out here!"

2. We are examples for others in the midst of our trials. How we handle negative circumstances will encourage others to do the same.

3. These knew the truth about Paul. There will be those who will support you and believe the truth about you even if you are being lied about.

D. **Vs. 15; 16-** Second group- those who loved themselves and their own ministries- There are a few that are hard heads that want to cause problems. These are the minority. Don't focus on the few knuckle heads. Focus on the many that are headed in the right direction.

1. There is a tendency in the ministry to be effected by the few that cause problems then on the many that are a blessing. Don't do that! Many ministers are ready to throw away the whole ministry because of a few stiff necked people. Don't let Satan do that to you!

2. Some were preaching out of envy. They were jealous of Paul's gift, influence, and reputation. They just preached to get a name for themselves. These people are still out there in the ministry.
3. Some were preaching out of contention- They used the gospel as a platform to criticize Paul and run him down. Do not use your pulpit to run down other ministers. Preach and teach the Word. Many will criticize you, but you just keep preaching the Word and let the Word vindicate you.

IV. Philippians 1:18

- A. Paul kept looking at the big picture. Christ was being preached no matter what motive it was being done.
- B. We often cannot see the big picture and keep it in focus. We get caught up in the immediate situations and get offended.
- C. If we will keep the big picture that all this is for God to get glory. It is not about us, or our name, or our reputation, or our ministry. It is all about God and Jesus Christ.
- D. We can **choose to rejoice** that God is going to get the glory out of everything we are going through and His kingdom is advancing.

V. Philippians 1:19

- A. **For I know-** Gr. **eido-** *full knowledge-* Paul knew full well God was going to deliver him. He just knew it on the inside of him. If we are led by the inward witness we can be held steady in the most unfavorable circumstances. We can know the general outcome before anyone else does. It will keep you calm.
- B. **will turn to-** Gr. **apobaino** - *This word was used for coming off of a ship.* Paul was in a huge storm at the time but he knew just like Jesus that he would reach the shore and come off the ship safely. He rested in the midst of the storm. He was going to the other side!
- C. **to salvation-** Gr. **eis soteria-** lit. *into salvation-* Paul knew he would safely land on the shore of salvation [deliverance]
- D. by **prayer-** Gr. **deesis-** *definite requests-* prayer of faith
- E. **supply of the Spirit** – Gr. **epichoregia-** *This word means to outfit the choir.* In the ancient world theatrical productions were hugely popular and cost great amounts of money. Benefactors would supply lavish amounts to these productions in order to outfit the

choir and cast. This word means provision that is outlandish and more than needed. The Spirit gives us outlandish and more than we need grace in the midst of our trial when we look to Him and stand on the Word of God.