

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the

# PHILIPPIANS


Lesson 2: Unto the Furtherance of the Gospel  
Philippians 1:12-26

Look for the answer to these questions:

- 1, 2. In Philippians 1:12-14, what are two ways Paul said his imprisonment would help advance the gospel?
3. In verse 15, what is a BAD reason and GOOD reason preach Christ?
4. In verse 18, what are the two ways people preach Christ?
- 5-7. In verse 19, what are the 3 things that Paul thought would bring his deliverance?
8. In verse 20, what did Paul want to accomplish by his life or death?
9. In verse 23, what did Paul think was better for him?
10. In verse 24, what did he think was better for the church?


This lesson will examine the next two parts of Chapter One:

## Chapter 1: PAUL'S ACCOUNT OF HIS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE

1. Paul's prayer of thanksgiving (1-11)
-  2. **Paul's afflictions help spread the Gospel** (12-18)
3. Paul's afflictions exalt the Lord (19-26)
4. Paul's exhortation to the afflicted (27-30)

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Many people abandoned Paul in his prison years. Some thought his arrest proved he had fallen out of favor with God; others were afraid to be associated with him.

## B. Paul's Afflictions Promote the Gospel (12-18)

But Paul was not ashamed nor discouraged. He knew his afflictions would actually help promote the Gospel.

### **Philippians 1:12**

<sup>12</sup> But I would ye should understand, brethren, *that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;*

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(Knowing the things Paul suffered for the sake of the Gospel, this was no small thing for him to say.)

## 2 Corinthians 11:23b-28

<sup>23</sup> ... in labours more abundant,  
in stripes above measure,  
in prisons more frequent,  
in deaths oft.

<sup>24</sup> Of the Jews five times received I  
forty *stripes* save one.

<sup>25</sup> Thrice was I beaten with rods, once  
was I stoned,  
thrice I suffered shipwreck,  
a night and a day I have been in the  
deep;

<sup>26</sup> In journeyings often,  
in perils of waters,  
in perils of robbers,

in perils by *mine* own countrymen,  
in perils by the heathen,  
in perils in the city,  
in perils in the wilderness,  
in perils in the sea,  
in perils among false brethren;

<sup>27</sup> In weariness and painfulness,  
in watchings often,  
in hunger and thirst,  
in fastings often,  
in cold and nakedness.

<sup>28</sup> Beside those things that are without,  
that which cometh upon me daily,  
the care of all the churches.



## B. Paul's Afflictions Promote the Gospel (12-18)

But this is the testimony  
of the Word of God:

### **Romans 8:28**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that **all things work together for good**  
to them that love God,  
to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

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– for OUR good, not the good of the gospel.

Paul gives two examples of how his imprisonment helped the  
ministry of the gospel:

## B. Paul's Afflictions Promote the Gospel (12-18)

1. Because of his imprisonment, all the royal guards had heard about Christ.

### **Philippians 1:13**

<sup>13</sup> So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*;

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**Palace** = πραιτώριον (praitōrion)

The palace at Jerusalem occupied by the Roman governor, or the quarters of the praetorian guard in Rome.

**This word is found in Mark 15:16:**

<sup>16</sup> And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called **Praetorium** ...

## B. Paul's Afflictions Promote the Gospel (12-18)

2. The second reason Paul's imprisonment helped the gospel is because his example of faith and courage inspired the church.

### **Philippians 1:14**

<sup>14</sup> And many of the brethren in the Lord, **waxing confident by my bonds,** are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

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People who keep their faith in times of trouble inspire others to do the same.

People with easy lives inspire only envy.

## B. Paul's Afflictions Promote the Gospel (12-18)

Paul knew that some people were talking about Christ for ugly reasons, but others spoke with love and respect.

### Philippians 1:15-17

- <sup>15</sup> Some indeed preach Christ even **of envy and strife**; and some also **of good will**:
- <sup>16</sup> The one preach Christ **of contention, not sincerely**, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:
- <sup>17</sup> But the other **of love**, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.



## B. Paul's Afflictions Promote the Gospel (12-18)

The only thing that mattered to Paul was that people were hearing about Christ.

### **Philippians 1:18**

<sup>18</sup> What then?

notwithstanding, every way,  
whether in pretence, or in truth,  
Christ is preached;  
and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

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**Pretence** is behavior meant to deceive people. It may look sincere but it is only pretending.

This word is used in **Matthew 23:14**:

<sup>14</sup> Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!  
for ye devour widows' houses,  
and for a **pretence** make long prayer...

We now look at something else Paul's afflictions accomplished:

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Paul had three reasons to believe he would be released from prison.

**Philippians 1:19**

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<sup>19</sup> **For I know that this** shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

- 1) **this** – (referring to Christ being preached in pretense and in truth). He believed that as more people knew about Christ, their hearts would be softened toward him.

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**Philippians 1:19**

<sup>19</sup> For I know that this shall turn to my salvation **through your prayer,** and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

2) Paul knew the church was praying for him, and “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

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**Philippians 1:19**

<sup>19</sup> For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer,  
**and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,**

3) He knew Christ was interceding for him and giving him strength.

Paul trusted in God for his deliverance, and he knew his trust was not in vain.

**Philippians 1:20**

<sup>20</sup> According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.



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**Psalms 25:20**

<sup>20</sup> O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.

Whether it came through his life or his death, Paul's only desire was to magnify Christ.

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<sup>20</sup> According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also **Christ shall be magnified** in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

**Psalms 34:3**

<sup>20</sup> O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

He knew that his future was secure in heaven, so it did not matter to him if he lived or died.

**Philippians 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> For to me to live *is* Christ,  
and to die *is* gain.

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“For to me, to live is Christ [He is my source of joy, my reason to live] and to die is gain [for I will be with Him in eternity].”  
Amplified Bible

If his mortal life continued, he knew he could continue to serve the LORD and his people.

But even if he had the power to choose (which no man has), he did not know what he would do.

**Philippians 1:22**

<sup>22</sup> But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour, yet what I shall choose I wot not.

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<sup>22</sup> But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour, yet what I shall choose I wot not.

**Ecclesiastes 8:8 tells us no man has the power to keep himself alive when it is his time to die.**

<sup>8</sup> *There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death...*

Paul was torn between his desire to be with Christ and his desire to serve the church.

For HIM, it was better to be with Christ. For the CHURCH, it was better that his work continued.

**Philippians 1:23-24**

- <sup>23</sup> For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:
- <sup>24</sup> Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

Paul was confident that God's plan was for his mortal life to continue, and so he joyfully anticipated being with the Philippian believers again.

**Philippians 1:25-26**

- <sup>25</sup> And having this confidence,  
I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for  
your furtherance and joy of faith;
- <sup>26</sup> That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus  
Christ for me by my coming to you again.



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UP NEXT

## Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

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Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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