

7-17-24 – Philippians – Week 2

Likely, Paul imprisoned in Rome. No crime, yet positive. Encouraging.
When we are under stress, pressed upon – what's in us comes out.

Phil. 1:12-14 – NLT – “¹² I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that **everything** that has happened to me here **has helped** to spread the Good News. ¹³ For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have **gained confidence** and boldly speak God's message without fear.”

- Hindsight gives us wisdom. We want to know why bad things happen.
- He sees the reason now. And bright side of dark prison. Amazing!
 - o There's always **purpose for our pain**. Even in jail ... did no wrong.
 - o Sometimes **God allows** the **bad** – then uses it for **good**. **Rom 8:28**
 - Paul **wanted to preach**, but wrote **lasting letters** instead.
 - Eph, Phil, Col., & Philemon – the prison epistles.
- Our lives touch others... our **witness** is @ its **best** in **difficult** times.
 - o Paul proves it. Jail... hard... should be down, but he lifts us up
 - Our lives **empower others**. Our good attitude, contagious

Phil. 1:15-18 – NIV – ¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former **preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely**, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. 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.”

- Some preach/talk w/ wrong motives. **Beware**: who is being glorified?
Beware: stirring up trouble, or stirring up love?
 - o **Prov. 29:8** – “Mockers create an uproar in a city, but wise people turn away anger.”
 - o Holding up a Bible is not the same as holding up its Principles.
- **Paul sees the good side**: even so, Christ is preached. So Rejoice.

Isa. 55:10-11 – “For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return without watering the earth, making it bud and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, so My word that proceeds from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please, and it will prosper where I send it.”

Phil. 1:18-21 NIV — ... “And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

- Acts 28:30 (1 Tim, 2 Tim, & Titus) indicate Paul was released from 2-yr home prison in Rome. Preached more... deliverance occurred.
 - o **Serving God won’t be w/o problem.** Target on back/enemy prowls
- But “**Eagerly expect & hope** to not be ashamed . . . will have courage.”
 - o He’s not ashamed of the gospel, doesn’t want to be ashamed of being afraid. He wants courage to face whatever may come.
 - We all **need** a **boldness & courage** to stand for Jesus.
- “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”
 - o Purpose of his life is sharing Jesus. Living is challenging. Hard. Diff.
 - Paul knows he is sharing in the suffering of Jesus.
 - **Luke 9:23** – “If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross every day and follow me.”
 - **Luke 14:27** – “Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”
 - Everyone has a cross to bear. Our crosses are unique.
 - o When our lives are over, we gain.
 - Death is not end; new beginning. Glory. Pain-free. No tears.

Phil. 1:22-26 —²² But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don’t know which is better. ²³ I’m torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. ²⁴ But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. ²⁵ Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. ²⁶ And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

Song of Week – “To Live Is Christ” – by Sidewalk Prophets