

Review:

Paul in Jail. Praying with over Phil partnership in the gospel as he thinks of them! Confident that Jesus who began a good work in them will bring that work to a glorious conclusion! Prayed that their love would grow exceedingly abundantly in knowledge and insight to make the best choices in life.

Acts 28:16 soldier guarded Paul in a rented house.

Philippians heard Paul was in prison so they sent **Epaphroditus** with a letter to Paul.

- The book of Philippians is Paul's reply to their letter sent with Epaphroditus
- They feared for his well-being. Feared that he would no longer be able to get the Word out.

Verse 12**What has happened?**

In Philippi a slave girl. Paul and Silas in jail **Acts 16:22-30**

Acts 21:4, 10:14 On way to Jerusalem: Warnings from the Spirit and prophets –walking by faith II Cor 5:7

Arrested in Jerusalem bound and handed over to Gentiles. Taken to Caesarea and in prison for two years.

- The Roman official had wanted to hand Paul over to the Jewish authorities who conspired to kill Paul.
- Paul legally appealed to Caesar because of the plot.
- Remember the wild storm on the sea? Snake bite?

The Roman legal system was not always fast. He was in prison for 2 years at Rome! **4 YEARS TOTAL!**

Jews had Paul jailed, mocked, abused, sent to court and jail to try to silence him. **NERO's** hands!

Paul had long wanted to go to Rome!

- **Acts 19:21** On trip to Jerusalem
- **Romans 1:10** Prayed regularly to go. **1:15** very eager to go to Rome!
- **Acts 23:11** Lord told him he will testify to...

He reached Rome under less than pleasurable circumstances! He never planned going as a prisoner.

Advance GK: (Louw) change one's state for the better by advancing and making progress. **Gospel**

- Paul triumphantly proclaims God's Word is NOT hindered! **Isaiah 55:11**
- All of the afflictions Paul endured served to spread the gospel!
- **Acts 8** Persecution of Jews made all except the Apostles scatter to new places & carry the Gospel there.

Paul was chained to a Royal Roman Guard. Even in chains, guess what happened? Paul witnessed to the guards who were a "captive audience"! They got saved! Guards changed every four hours. 6 different guards per day

- **Phil 4:22** "Caesar's household" sends greetings!
- **Romans 8:28-29**
- **Acts 9:15** Paul would carry Gods name before the Gentiles, their Kings, and Jews too.

MINDSET about Trials and Tribulation: ADVANCEs the Good News of Jesus!

- **II Cor 12:9 – 10 Delight GK:** from "to think" and "be well pleased" Thinks well about his weaknesses. Mindset about suffering is VERY POSITIVE!!!
- **James 1:2 - 3**
- **Romans 5:3 - 5**
- **Romans 8:18** Our present suffering – compared to future glory..
- **II Cor 1:3-4**

All of these things in our lives Advance the Good News about Jesus by our living among others and their witnessing how we live in spite of troubles!

Oyster Story:

A speck of sand found its way into an oyster. The sand agitated and irritated. Like a small stone in our shoe! Over a period of time that affliction of the oyster turned into a valuable pearl! Same happens with us!

Verse 13

Whole palace guard/praetorian guard

The **praetorium** is the location of the Roman soldiers' mocking of Jesus. (Associated with military &/or gov't) Not fooled. They know Paul is innocent! Pilate thought Jesus was innocent too. 2 Thieves on the cross. Put under arrest chained to a Roman Praetorian Guard (members of Caesar's household). Squad of four.

Chains for Christ

Paul's sharing of the gospel "good news of Jesus" has landed him in court and jail.

Keeps sharing! **David Jeremiah** "over two years potential to be chained to 3,000 soldiers!"

Acts 16:25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Foundations rocked. Jailer asked, "What must I do to get saved?"

How do these verses impact us today?

Today people in the USA are being persecuted by various levels of govt and police for their faith.

Examples:

Dr. Walsh was Georgia District Health Director. Fired after they discovered he was a lay minister.

The GA Atty General told him to turn over his bible and notes on all sermons to the govt. His messages on health, marriage, sexuality, world religions, science, creationism, and homosexuality bothered the govt as he shared what the bible says about those topics.

<http://myangelscloud.com/pastor-fights-back-georgia-tries-confiscate-sermon-notes-bible/>

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2016/10/26/state-georgia-demands-pastor-turn-over-sermons.html>

2nd grader during "read to myself time" brought a bible to school. Teacher told her not to bring the bible because it is "inappropriate reading material."

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/2nd-grade-girls-bible-confiscated-by-teacher-during-read-to-myself-time-118500/>

Everyone else!

Not just the guards but **everyone** who was aware of Paul's imprisonment. **Precious Truth for Us!**

Verse 14 Persecution Promotes Growth

Many GK: Literally "the most"

Previously not all were preaching/speaking about Christ.

Encouraged GK: Perfect (action completed in past with continuing results) Participle Active. (Wuest) comes from a GK word meaning "to persuade"

(Louw) so bold as to challenge or defy possible danger or opposition — to dare.

Encouraged is supposed to be connected with "in the Lord". They are bold in the Lord's power!

Speak GK: Present tense (ongoing action) infinitive active voice.

Courageously GK: Present tense (ongoing action) infinitive active voice.

Fearlessly GK: phóbos We get phobia from that GK word.

When we hear of Christian leaders being persecuted, how will we respond?

Acts 9:15-16 Annanis did not want to help Paul. God's reply "chosen instrument" "will suffer for my name".

Believers went from timid to bold!

AMP: v14 And [also] most of the brethren have derived fresh confidence in the Lord because of my chains and are much more bold to speak *and* publish fearlessly the Word of God [acting with more freedom and indifference to the consequences].

Verse 15 Two Sides of the Coin Motivations!

Of Greek translation of a word meaning “because of”

Envy/Rivalry/strife (Rivalry/Strife means to “stir up” carries the idea of a love of strife & contention.) (Jews) Cook stirs up what they make.

Good Will GK: Something that pleases someone. Who are the “good will” people trying to please?

Verse 16 Supporters

Love GK: (26) Agape

Knowing GK (Perfect Participle Active) “settled in their minds” (Tower of Siloam – incorrectly judging)

Put Here/appointed (Present Indicative Middle) **Eph 6:10, 13** Spiritual Armor. Standing... in his power.

Eph 6:12 Struggle not against flesh and blood ... We are not to worry about tomorrow but today!

Verse 17 Agitators

Selfish Ambition GK to work for hire. A feeling of hostility and/or opposition. **Eph 4:31** bitterness, rage, anger

Trouble GK: (Louw) trouble involving direct suffering. From GK word meaning to crush, compress, squeeze

While in chains. I wonder if they would be so strongly attacking Paul if he were not chained. Dog chained.

Verse 18 End Result

Christ is ALL!!!

Jesus’ disciples said they heard some driving out demons in His name and tried to stop them. Jesus said to let them alone for if they are for us....

Gospel was being advanced!!!

Rejoice GK: (Lowe) enjoy a state of happiness and well-being.

Paul had a “calm peace” in the midst of all the trials, stressors, and anxiety provoking events!

Where was Paul’s focus? Self or Christ?

Verse 19

Know GK: (Louw) to possess information about (Present Indicative) ‘be acquainted with’ experienced!

Acts 14:20 Paul left for dead. Believers prayed around him and he got up

Source of Paul’s strength?

- Through your prayers.
 - James 5:16
 - Acts 14:19-20
 - Prayers move God’s heart.
 - Eph 3:20 do immeasurably more than ask or imagine
 - Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me and I will answer thee and show you great and mighty things
- Help from Jesus.
 - Daniel Lion’s Den.
 - Fiery Furnace Eph 3:20
 - Phil 4:13 I can do ALL things....

Help GK: (Louw) make available whatever is necessary to help or supply the needs of someone

Romans 8:28 – 29

Deliverance/salvation GK: rescue or preservation from danger. Roman Emperors view of Christians.

Verse 20

Eagerly Expect GK: “really looking forward”

Examples:

1. My Niece at patio door. Shake
2. A pet dog waiting at home for you to arrive.

Hope GK: (Zodhiates) desire of some good with expectation of obtaining it

Ashamed because of doing something wrong. Respond appropriately.

Sufficient **courage** from two **GK** words **All** and **Speech**.

Exalted carries the multiple ideas of praised, honored, glorified, respected.

In My Body Stewardship of all we have.

Life or Death!

Verse 21

To **live** GK: to be alive (**present** infinitive active voice) **is** Christ! What does that mean? “biography” (Zod)

To **die** GK: (Louw) “process of dying” (**present** infinitive active voice) **is** gain (result of an outcome)

How is the process of dying considered gain?

Most people speak of dying as a loss. “I’m sorry to hear of your loss”.

In Jesus’ very presence!

In the glory of eternity!

New Glorious Body as per **I Cor 15:42-44**

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;

43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. (Rem how Moses face glowed white?)

We will be like Jesus! What do we know about Jesus’ spiritual body after his resurrection? He ate, was recognizable, traveled through walls,

Song: For me to Live is Christ... Sidewalk Prophets –

Applications for Us

1. What's are mindset about less than pleasant things that happen to us?

- a. Do we fret and worry about how it will make us look and how will we save ourselves?
- b. Do we maintain a Positive view asking the Lord to show us how we can glorify Him?

2. Persecution of Believers.

- a. Voice of Martyrs.
- b. How do we respond inwardly about their persecution?
- c. How do we respond outwardly about their persecution? Pray, offer financial support, etc

3. To Live is Christ and to Die is Gain.

- a. How much of our lives are focused on living for him now?
- b. Do we fear death or look forward to meeting Jesus?

Notes:

Esther 4:9-16 – God sometimes allows us opportunity to “suffer” for him and with him.