

Striving Together: Paul's Epistle to the Philippians

Lesson 2: Philippians 1:12-26

Results of Paul's Imprisonment (vv. 12-14)

- Paul celebrates the furtherance (advance) of the gospel (v. 12)
- Positive effect on those who don't or didn't know Christ (v. 13)
 - "the palace guard" – again, denotes his Roman imprisonment
 - Paul's imprisonment is different from anyone else's (at that time)
 - 1 Peter 3:13-17; 4:12-16

How would Paul's imprisonment affect these Roman guards?

- Boldness among the Roman believers (v. 14)
 - Their confidence has increased because of Paul's chains

Why would Paul's incarceration embolden the Roman Christians?

2 Tim. 1:8-12

What does this teach us about our modern-day situation?

Preaching Motivations Vary (vv. 15-17)

- Paul contrasts those who are preaching the gospel message (v. 15)
- Some are not friendly to Paul personally (v. 16)
 - These preachers are not Judaizers or false teachers, since Paul would certainly call them out if they were
 - This may be what the church in Corinth experienced (1 Cor. 1:10-13)
- Others are Paul's allies (v. 17)
 - They recognize Paul's calling as a preacher of the gospel
 - They are furthering and enhancing Paul's mission
 - Paul refers to this as defending the gospel (*apologia* = "apologetics")

Paul's Eternal Perspective (v. 18)

- Paul isn't concerned with motivation, as long as the correct message goes forth
- Jesus had the same approach (Luke 9:49-50)

Based on vv. 15-18, what should our criteria be for those who teach and preach the gospel in a different manner from us?

Two Favorable Options (vv. 19-26)

- Paul will be delivered from His imprisonment one way or the other (vv. 19-20)
 - Paul (and we) need the prayers of other believers – always encouraging!
 - Ultimately it will be up to the Holy Spirit's "supply"
- Paul acknowledges that in any event he will not be put to shame, because Christ will be exalted no matter what
- A *Key Verse* in the Scriptures: To live is Christ and to die is gain (v. 21)
 - These are equivalencies: living = Christ; death = gain (advantage)

What does "to live is Christ" mean to you?

Why is it sometimes (often) hard to think about dying?

- Paul would have a hard time choosing, if it were left to him (vv. 22-24)
 - He would rather leave this world and be with Jesus (v. 23)
 - He knows that remaining on earth will be helpful to the Philippians (vv. 22, 24)

How should this attitude translate into our own service to Christ and others?

- He believes he will be exonerated and allowed to continue his work (vv. 25-26)
 - Their joy will even be greater when Paul returns to them
 - This appears to be a sincere realization that the Roman government has nothing against Paul which will lead to further legal entanglements
 - King Agrippa had told Festus as much (Acts 26:32)

Next week: Philippians 1:27-2:4