Bible Study

Philippians: Living with Joy

Chapter 1

OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS

(Warren Wiersbe)

I. THE SINGLE MIND—chapter 1

A. The fellowship of the Gospel—1:1–11

B. The furtherance of the Gospel—1:12–26

C. The faith of the Gospel—1:27–30

**DISCUSSION**

The epistle (letter) to the Philippian church was written by the Apostle Paul.

Philippi is a leading city in Macedonia (modern day Greece). It was surrounded by mountains and was situated about 10 miles from the Aegean Sea.

The main overland route (Egnatian Way) between Asia and the West ran through the city.

For more background on Paul’s Second Missionary Journey to Philippi, read Acts 16.

**DISCOVERY**

The Single Mind (chapter 1)

* The Fellowship of the Gospel (1-11)
* The Furtherance of the Gospel (12-26)
* The Faith of the Gospel (27-30)

The Furtherance of the Gospel (12-26)

**DIRECTION**

**Paul’s Chains**

(v. 12-14) Paul wanted to go to Rome as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but instead he went as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Acts 19:21; Romans 1:15

“…what has happened to me…”

Acts 21:7-28:31

Paul says that his imprisonment has actually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the gospel. How so?

* It became know throughout the whole imperial guard

Paul’s chains opened for him a door of opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\*How easy or difficult might it be for you to use a negative experience as an opportunity to share the gospel?

He was chained to a Roman soldier 24-hours a day. With shift changes every six hours, he would have the chance to witness to at least four men each day.

* God can, will, and often does, use the negative episodes of our lives as opportunities to further the gospel!

Paul says that his imprisonment became a means of encouragement to others to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fearlessly. (v 14)

**Paul’s Critics**

It is interesting to note that there were believers in Rome who were in opposition to Paul and his preaching. (v 15-19)

Paul said that some preached Christ out of… …and others out of …

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **1 Corinthians 16:13-14** |
|  |
|  |
|  |
| Hoping to add to Paul’s misery |

(v 18) Paul says regardless the motivation, what is most important is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

* It did not matter to him that some were for or against him. What mattered is that Christ was preached!

Because of Paul’s chains, Christ was made known. Because of Paul’s critics, Christ was preached.

**Paul’s Crisis**

Because Paul preached Christ, he could be viewed as a traitor to the Roman state. Subsequently, this could place him in jeopardy of being executed.

(v 20) Whatever the consequence (whether by life or by death), Paul wanted Christ to be highly honored in his body.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

Paul wanted to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christ in his body.

\*What does the word magnify mean? What does it mean to magnify Christ?

Warren Wiersbe uses the image of a telescope to help solidify this thought. “The stars are much bigger than a telescope, yet the telescope magnifies them and brings them closer in view.”

So must our lives for Christ be. Our lives for Christ must be the “telescope” that brings the distant Christ in closer view for non-believers.

Paul is saying then, whether I live or die, I want to bring Christ in closer view for those who do not know Him. (Is this what I want for my life’s testimony?)

Paul says that he is facing a difficult decision. (v 21)

He says to remain alive was necessary for the Philippian believers’ benefit, but to die and be with Christ was much better. (v 22-24)

Paul was willing to postpone going to heaven so that he could help the Philippian believers grow.

(v 25-26)

**DIRECTION**

Read Acts 21:7 – 28:31

Read Acts 1

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