

Philippians 1:12-21 For Me to Live is Christ

12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice. 19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. - PRAY

Have you ever wanted something really bad – consumed your thought process – energy – Prayer

A)But it came about – in a different way than what you expected?

B)The Apostle Paul could relate.

C)See Paul really wanted to go to Rome and Preach the gospel – it was a strong desire –

1)IT was something he talked about prayed about A lot

D)He always wanted to go to Rome.

1)It was a huge desire .

E)He wrote to the Romans and he said, pray for me that I may come to you with joy by the will of God,

1)and may be refreshed together with you. That's not exactly what happened.

God finally MET THAT DESIRE – HE WAS GOING TO ROME

A)And the Roman Govt was paying for His trip!

B)But Paul wasn't going to Rome as a Missionary He was going as a PRISONER!

1)All expenses paid trip to Rome – Courtesy of the Roman Govt.

C)Note the phrase in v.12 - that the things which happened to me

Here's what happened. After his third missionary journey, he goes back to Jerusalem.

A)He's in the temple area with another fellow going through a ceremonial ritual.

B)Some of the leaders spot Paul there.

1)They were not fans – they viewed him as a traitor defected to the other side –

C)he was once a Pharisee and now he was a follower of Jesus

So they attack Paul – and They start a riot, and they attack him.

A)A Roman soldier arrests Paul-- not to punish him, but to protect him from the mob—

B)Paul ends up getting beaten by the Roman officials – sort of – he is trouble maker –

1)see if we can beat some sense into him

C)Paul pulls his Roman citizenship card out and says, you can't beat me. I'm a Roman citizen.

So he is then taken from Jerusalem to Caesarea by the sea, where he spends two years.

A)And he goes through three trials in two years. He stands before Felix. He stands before Festus.

B)He stands before Herod Agrippa. And after two years, he finally says, I'm done.

C)This judicial process is crazy.

1)He appealed his case to Caesar – which was the right of any Roman Citizen

So they put him on a ship. It is not a cruise ship. It's not a Princess Cruise. It is a prison cruise.

A)And they put them on this boat. And they send him to Rome.

B)He almost doesn't make it to Rome. The ship sinks.

1)He has to swim to shore. But he finally goes to Rome, where he's put in jail again.

C)All of that is under this banner, V.12 but the things which happened to me.

1)That's what he is referring to.

D)Rough time – it was a rough place

1)But God used it!

Now think back to that time in your life when what you were hoping would happen

A)Ended up not being what you bargained for

B)You thought it was going to be a blessing – ended up feeling like a Prison

C)Confinement of any sort will challenge your joy.

Some of you feel chained to a job. Dream Job

A)But now It is a tyrant to you.

B) Some of you feel chained to a relationship or a set of responsibilities you didn't sign up for.

1)It can leave you discouraged – feeling defeated

But the Life of the Apostle Paul speaks loudly to us that our life doesn't have to be defined by the things that have gone against us

A)Life doesn't have to be defined by the circumstances that haven't turned out the way that we hoped

B)Theme Philippians is Joy –

1) in our text today we are going to see two things that defined Paul's life in the midst of all the difficulty

C)Consider: His Passion and His Purpose –

#1 Paul's Passion – Found in V. 21 The Phrase for me to live is Christ

A)Acts 9 Road to Damascus – Who are you Lord – and what do you want me to do

B)Living for Jesus became Paul's passion

1)That DEFINED HIM

C)That is what Paul's life was about Knowing Christ drawing near to Christ / serving Christ

BEEN SAID: "Life is what we are alive to."

A)PAUL was alive to JESUS!!!!

B)For me to live is Christ – It is all about Him !!!

How would you fill in the Blank – for me to live is ____ !! Work / House / Friends / Girlfriend / Boy

A)What is the thing that marks your life / what are you ALIVE TO – For you to live is _____

B)JESUS WAS PAUL'S PASSION

C)WHAT WAS PAUL'S PURPOSE?

V.20 so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

PAUL HAD A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE –

A)He viewed life as a stage – a platform – For Christ to be glorified on

B)No matter what happened – no matter what the outcome of his imprisonment would be –

1) Christ would be magnified in Paul's Life

C)Some might ask the question: Does Christ need to be magnified ?

1)How can a mere human being ever magnify the son of God?

Think of it this way: The stars are much bigger than A telescope

A)And yet a telescope magnifies them and brings them closer TO THE HUMAN EYE

B)Our lives are like a telescope that brings Jesus closer to people

C)See to the average person – especially the unbeliever – Jesus is distant

1)He is hard to fathom and understand – like a star galaxies away

D)But when the unbeliever is allowed to watch a believers life –

1)when they see a believer in the midst of a tragedy –

JESUS IS BROUGHT NEAR TO THEM

E)The believer's life is a "lens" THAT MAKES a "distant Christ" come very close.

1)Especially in the face of difficulty – they wonder How did you make it through that? – **tell them JESUS**

AS Jesus is magnified in our lives he becomes a lot more tangible and visible to OTHERS

A)So Paul's Passion was CHRIST

B)HIS PURPOSE WAS THAT Christ would be magnified in his life

C)THE rest of our time this morning – I want us to see what was the Result of Paul's passion and Purpose:

1)Note 4 Things – Result of that mindset

#1 The gospel Spread throughout the whole Palace Guard V.12-13

A)Gospel = Good news – Good news about Jesus –

B)Who he is – what he did – what he can do in the life of a person who knows him

1)Because Jesus was Paul's passion he talked about – him -

C)Jesus is being spread throughout the whole Palace guard – or the Praetorian Guard.

1)That would be like being chained to the Secret Service or to the CIA, that elite.

D)There was about 10,000 of them in the Roman Empire. They were the bodyguards of the emperor.

Paul starts off in a Dungeon - Writes to Timothy bring his Coat – cold

A)Eventually moved to a private Home: (**Research what that would have been like**)

B)He's in a rented home, the Book of Acts tells us.

1)He's chained to a guard 24 hours a day in a rented house.

C)6 Hr shifts – so 4 guards in a day!

Now we often think, oh, Paul was in chains. But think of it the other way. So was the soldier.

A)Paul had **a captive audience** – literally – they couldn't walk away

B)The whole Palace guard ends up hearing the gospel – about 10,000 men

C)Some of them are getting saved!

Paul said: This actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,

A)Some translations - For the greater progress of the Gospel –

B)Paul uses a Greek military term which referred to the corps of army engineers.

1)They went out in front of the advancing army to open up the way by cutting down trees

C)Creating a Path for the soldiers to travel on!

1)Paul was saying – His chains were actually creating a pathway for the gospel to travel on.

D)Paul's imprisonment for Christ did not bind the gospel; rather it helped to release it

E)Roman guards were actually coming to Know Jesus!

1)Not the way that Paul would have written the story
Be – HE WAS STOKED

#2 Result: V.14-18 Others were inspired to preach – More confident

A)Meaning they were not confident before

B) Christians in Rome, were scared to say anything ABOUT JESUS

1)They were timid.

C)They were afraid and understandably. Paul ended up in jail. They could too

But in watching and hearing HOW Paul was being so bold and unhindered with the soldiers

A)It had a contagious affect on them

B)They started thinking differently. They started having thoughts like, if God can use Paul in jail,

1)God can certainly use me out of jail. So they became a little more bold.

C)The believers were emboldened by Paul

1))And now they're reaching the kind of people that Paul couldn't reach.

Now V.15-18 Interesting: Some preach for the wrong motives –

A)they want to make a name for themselves

B)Jealousy is motivating them – Strife is driving them –

C)Paul says I really don't care – Just glad that Christ is being preached

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

So the gospel was spreading throughout Rome

A)To the Palace Guard through Paul – to the Roman city – through the church

B)Because the Christians were emboldened by Paul's example

C)And the 3rd result - The Gospel spread through Caesar Nero's family

D)We know that to be a fact because when he closes this letter, Philippians, in chapter 4: 22, he says,

all the Saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

Isn't that great? No doubt - Some of the guards that were watching Paul got saved –

A)Then they get assigned to the detail of guarding the royal family

B)So tell me what was it like guarding Paul – they start talking about Jesus – Nero's family getting saved

So don't miss this: Paul wanted to go to Rome to preach the gospel

A)God sends him not as a missionary but as a prisoner

B)And The longest period of Paul's incarceration was the greatest period of Paul's impact.

C)The gospel is spreading throughout the most significant city in the Roman Empire

D)In other words, Paul's confinement was God's assignment.

1)That prison became his pulpit.

E)The gospel was going forward in power and great IMPACT

#4 Result: He wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon during this time.

A)Instead of sulking – instead of complaining – this isn't what I bargained for

B)Instead of getting discouraged and thinking – I can't do anything from here – this prison

1)Paul thought – what can I do ?

C)The Holy Spirit prompted him to write 4 books in the NT!!

1)Paul would not be defined by his circumstances His circumstances defined by his passion & purpose

When your Passion is Jesus and your purpose is to magnify Jesus with your life

A)You ask the question how does he want to do that thru my condition

B)So instead of saying – I can't do this or that – you say what can I do!

C)God uses the "chains" (burdens) in our life for His purposes –

Everyone has heard of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the famous British preacher,

A)But few know the story of his wife, Susannah.

Early in their married life, Mrs. Spurgeon became an invalid.

B)It looked as though her only ministry would be encouraging her husband and praying for his work.

But God gave her a burden to share her husband's books with pastors who were unable to purchase them.

C)This burden soon led to the founding of the "Book Fund."

1)As a work of faith, the "Book Fund" provided thousands of pastors with tools for their work.

D)All this was supervised by Mrs. Spurgeon from her home. It was a pioneer ministry. **1,000's impacted**

Just as God used a sling in David's hand, a pitcher in Gideon's hand, and a rod in the hand of Moses,

A)He used chains on Paul's hands.

B)That's not surprising, for chains are what open the door to speak to people who would not otherwise give us the time of day.

C)You see, it's when a wife hangs in there with her **difficult husband;**

1)it's when an employee refuses to talk behind his boss's back;

D)it's when a high-schooler willingly submits to his parents that people take note,

1)thereby opening opportunity for the wife, the employee, the high-schooler to share the reason why.

I believe that the troubles, challenges, and problems we face are custom-designed to do one thing:

A)To allow us to draw others *to* Jesus Christ and to encourage them *in* Jesus Christ. "

B)So the next time you are tempted to think, man, I'm stuck with this job.

1)I hate it, but I'm stuck here.

C)I am shackled in this situation or I am imprisoned by this person,

1)Instead of seeing it as an incarceration, see it as an opportunity for Jesus to be magnified thru your Life

Maybe you are here today – you feel like you are stuck in a different prison.

A)Not a Job that you hate – not a Job that is a drudgery

B)But a Job – that you have been really successful in

1)It is going great – everything has worked out the way you had hoped

C)The Problem the more successful you get, the more imprisoned you feel – stuck in this pressure

1)Keep this thing going –

D)And so you think thoughts like, well, I'd love to do more for Christ.

1)No time! -

Let me encourage you with the story of JC Penny, who made an enormous amount of money in his corporation,

A)JC Penny, a Christian businessman, who felt imprisoned by what he did,

B)but decided well, he could give the money away to gospel work.

1)So get this, 90% of his income he gave away. He kept and lived on 10%.

C)Now, most Christians give 10%. That's their tithe. They live on 90%.

He decided I'll reverse it!

A)I make a lot of money.. I can live happily on 10%.

B)I'll give 90% away to those people preaching the gospel.

C)He used that confinement, so to speak, to get the gospel out.

1)HE WAS RADICALLY FULFILLED AND INCREDIBLY REWARDED

When Jesus is your Passion – for You to live is Christ

You realize – YOUR PURPOSE is to magnify Him

A)You view everything through a different lens

B)Your approach to life is different

C)Your whole approach to trials is different –