



Philippians (Lesson # 05)

Philippians 1:12-14 Imprisonment in the cause of Christ

Let's read the text verses 1-8

***1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:**

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,

5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

6 *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

7 For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

8 For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.



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Now let's read the text of verses 9-14

***1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,**

¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

¹² Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,

¹³ so that my imprisonment in *the cause of Christ* has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,

¹⁴ and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.



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Some Observations on chapter 1

We dealt with the “salutation” verses 1 – 2 that centers in v2 with:

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”

In the remainder of the chapter there are 3 sections

Verses 3 – 11 is the “Thanksgiving and prayer” section, centered in v6 on:

“He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus”

Verses 12 – 18 centers on the thought in v12, which we are covering today:

“my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel”

Verses 19 – 30 centers on the thought in v21, which we have not covered:

“to live is Christ and to die is gain”

Some thoughtful questions to be answered personally...

Are we thankful for the Grace and peace that comes to us from God?

Are we content with the beginning of our walk with God?

Do we realize that there is a goal of perfection that God is moving us toward?

Are we aware God has united us with Christ, to share and show His Glory?



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Some Observations on verses 9-11 from last week

***1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,**

¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

This prayer of love includes these things:

Verse eleven sets forth the characteristics of those who produce, the three requests for which Paul prays are:

- 1. “...that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,”**
- 2. “that you may approve the things that are excellent,”**
- 3. “that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,”**

Those who have these characteristics of Christ in their lives, will produce fruit.



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***12** Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,

Observations on verse 12

Why does this begin with “Now” here?

This introduces a new section, “the occasion or reason for writing this letter”

What do the words: “I want you to know”, imply that they do not know?

The context shows that they do not know the results of his circumstances.

To whom is this letter written?

“Brethren” are the saints, set apart unto God ones in Philipi, per verse 1.

What is the results that Paul wants them to know?

That God turned his suffering into the progress of God’s plans.

To bring progress from the good news of Christ’s work.

The “have turned out the greater” adds what information?

That the results of Pauls imprisonment, were not expected. Good came not bad.

The adverb, mallon means, rather and now more than ever.

What verses amplify God’s reasons for Paul’s suffering?

120 other texts do this, including the next verse, Phil 1:13, explained next.

One text, Romans 8:28 states this principle of God’s ways very well.

***And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.**



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^{*13} so that my imprisonment in *the cause of Christ* has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,

Observations on verse 13

What does “so that” do to help us see what God is saying in this verse?

This tells us that what follows, is the results God gave from the imprisonment.

Are the words “in the cause of” in the original text?

No, the text only has “en Christo”, in or by Christ. And this is significant to note!

Does “my imprisonment in Christ” give us the focus God made known?

Yes, God is saying this was Christ’s imprisonment of Paul, not Rome’s.

Man’s view is opposite to this, normally being in jail is for human punishment,

God’s view here is to reveal Himself & His love message, and more in verse 14.

This is not positional truth. This is about God’s plan to reveal Himself and His ways with us, things He wants us to notice about Himself.

What does “has become” add to our understanding of this?

It’s from ginomai, to become something that was not before.



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^{*13} so that my imprisonment in *the cause of Christ* has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,

Observations on verse 13 continued

Does “well known” give us the focus of “has become”?

Yes, this tells us that God has revealed, phanaros, made visible, that this imprisonment is different from human normal imprisonment.

This is divine, this is something even unbelievers could see was different.

This, “well known” is a key to understanding many passages about God’s ways.

He has consistently been communicating with men about Himself, He reveals Himself in His creation, and in the scriptures we see Him repeatedly showing man His presence. The Star at His birth, the shepherds were told of His birth, and where they could go to see Him. And there are many more.

Where is this “praetorian guard”?

Many assume this is the Roman elite guards of Caesar, especially because of the last few verses of Philippians, Caesar's household is used there. But that is an assumption that became written about by leaders in the Roman Church.

However, the text of Philippians 2 would indicate there were several information gathering and giving trips by people associated with Paul and Philippi believers. And the number of trips is about 6 or 7 in that text, leading me to conclude this may have been the Roman praetorium in Ephesus, about a 3 to 5 day journey from Philippi.



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***14 and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.**

Observations on verse 14

What is the significance of the word “most” in this verse?

It indicates that most but not all the brethren reacted correctly to Christ’s imprisonment of Paul. More about this in next weeks lesson.

Is the word “trusting” translated consistently in Philippians?

No, there are 6 places that use this word in Philippians, & it means “persuaded”. The references are; Phil 1:6, 14, 25, 2:24, 3:3, 4. There are 52 uses in NT total.

God persuades, He prods us to action. He arranges the circumstances to get us to think in harmony with His thoughts. So we like Paul, can rejoice in suffering.

Why does God persuade us instead of just making us do His will?

His ways are to reveal His glory and His plans for us so we can look on suffering as preparation for helping others. That He works all things together for good, the circumstances may be good or bad from our old nature’s view, but now we have His nature and so we can grow and experience both joy and pain knowing that all He brings our way are for our good and His purposes to be accomplished.

What is the cause for believers having courage to speak the Word without fear?

Because courage is God’s gift when we respond to His persuasion positively. When we are “goaded” by God, we believe Him and His strength is revealed through us in courage to speak His word without fear. He is in control and we are willing to be His instrument, His revealers of His message.



Philippians 1:12-14 Imprisonment in the cause of Christ

The emphasis today was on God
1 giving us joy during all circumstances
2 as He persuades us
to fearlessly speak about His good news
3 offering all men
intimate knowledge of Himself and His work of love

This is God's gift to us, that we may now live
in harmony with God's supreme purpose:

THAT ALL MAY AKNOWLEDGE THE PERFECTION OF HIS SON
CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD

The following is the preparation for this lesson
of carefully reading and translating
what God has given us in these verses.
Upon this foundation
this lesson has been given.



Philippians 1:12-14 Imprisonment in the cause of Christ

***12** Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, ¹³ so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, ¹⁴ and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

****12** Now, to come to know, you I am wanting, brothers! That these circumstances in respect to me, now more than ever, are toward progress of the gospel, having brought permanent results ¹³ So that the visible chains of me in Christ, are become *visible* to all the Praetorium and to all the others. ¹⁴ And also most of the brethren in *the* Lord are persuaded *because of the imprisonment of me*, exceedingly to have courage, boldly the word to be speaking

***** 12** Now, after mature consideration my desire is that you gain this knowledge from [my] experience, namely, that the things which are holding me down [those associated with my imprisonment] have come to result rather in the pioneer advance of the good news, ¹³ so that it has become plainly recognized that my shackles are because of Christ, this recognition of their true meaning existing throughout the whole of the Praetorium Guard and among all the rest. ¹⁴ And the great majority of the brethren having come to a state of settled confidence in the Lord, having been influenced by the gentle persuasion of my shackles to take that step of confidence, are more abundantly bold, fearlessly breaking their silence and speaking the word of God.



Philippians 1:12-14 Imprisonment in the cause of Christ

*12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,

¹² Γινώσκειν [v inf pres act γινώσκω] **to come to know**, *be sure of (inf of intent)*

δὲ [conj δέ] to introduce background material into a narrative **now**

ὑμᾶς [pro pers acc pl σύ] **you** all

βούλομαι, [v ind pres mid/pas 1p sing βούλομαι] **I am wanting**

ἀδελφοί, [n voc m pl ἀδελφός] **brothers**

ὅτι [conj subj ὅτι] **that** (to introduce what is perceived true or sure)

τὰ [def art nom n pl ὁ] these things, **these circumstances**,

κατ' [prep κατά] w acc pronoun: **in respect to**, facing, in relation to

ἐμὲ [pro pers acc sing ἐγώ] **me**

μᾶλλον [adverb μᾶλλον] more, rather (**now more than ever**, *more and more*)

εἰς [prep εἰς] into, **toward** (to denote the purpose of a divine appointment)

προκοπὴν [n acc f sing προκοπή] **progress**, advancement

τοῦ εὐαγγελίου [def art+n gen n sing εὐαγγέλιον] of the good news, **of the gospel**

ἐλήλυθεν· [v ind perf act 3p sing ἔρχομαι] **have come to permanent results**

Strong emphasis on abiding good results

** My literal translation

Now, to come to know, you I am wanting, Brothers! That these circumstances in respect to me, now more than ever, are toward progress of the gospel, having brought permanent results.



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*13 so that my imprisonment in *the cause* of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,

¹³ ὥστε [conj ὥστε] **so that**

τοὺς δεσμούς [def art+n acc m pl δεσμόν] **the chains**, fetters, bonds, imprisonment μου [pro pers gen sing ἐγώ] **of me**, my

φανερούς [adj acc m pl φανερός] **visible**, *manifest, clear, seen, plain, known*

ἐν [prep ἐν] **in** (position inside) or **to** (dative of focus) or **by** (instrument of means)

χριστῷ [n dat m sing Χριστός] **Christ**, promised one, messiah

γενέσθαι [v inf aor mid γίνομαι] **are become visible** (infinitive purpose & aorist fact)

ἐν [prep ἐν] **in** (position inside) or **to** (dative of focus) or **by** (instrument of means)

ὅλῳ [adj dat n sing ὅλος] whole, intact, entire, **all**

τῷ πραιτωρίῳ [def art+n dat n sing πραιτώριον] **the praetorium**, palace

καὶ [καὶ [conj καί] **and**, also, indeed

τοῖς λοιποῖς [def art+adj dat m pl λοιποί] the rest, **the others**, the remaining

πᾶσιν, [adj dat m pl πᾶς] **all**, whole, entire, everyone,

** My literal translation

So that the visible chains of me in Christ, are become visible to all the praetorium and to all the others.



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*14 and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

14 καὶ [conj καί] **and also**, indeed
τοὺς πλείονας [def art+adj acc m pl πολὺς] **the most**
τῶν ἀδελφῶν [def art+n gen m pl ἀδελφός] **of the brethren**
ἐν [prep ἐν] **in** (position inside) or to (dative of focus) or by (instrument of means)
κυρίῳ, [n dat m sing κύριος] **Lord**, God
πεπειθότας [part perf act acc m pl πείθω] **are persuaded**, convinced, ie goaded,
τοῖς δεσμοῖς [def art+n dat m pl δεσμὸν] **by the imprisonment**
μου, [pro pers gen sing ἐγώ] **of me**, my
περισσοτέρως [adv περισσῶς] more abundantly, *in an unusual manner*, **exceedingly**
τολμᾶν [v inf pres act τολμάω] to *dare*, **to have courage**, are brave
ἀφόβως [adv ἀφόβως] *fearlessly*, **boldly**
τὸν λόγον [def art+n acc m sing λόγος] **the word**
λαλεῖν. [v inf pres act λαλέω] to be telling, **to be speaking**

** My literal translation

And also most of the brethren in *the* Lord are persuaded *because of the* imprisonment of me, exceedingly to have courage, boldly the word to be speaking



Philippians 1:12-14 Imprisonment in the cause of Christ

Now from Wuest's expanded translation:

***1:1 Paul and Timothy, bondslaves by nature, the property of Christ Jesus, to all the consecrated and separated ones in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, together with overseers and deacons.**

2 [Sanctifying] grace be to you and [tranquilizing] peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I am constantly thanking my God for my whole remembrance of you,

4 always in every prayer of mine making supplication for all of you with joy.

5 I am thanking my God constantly for your joint-participation [with me] in the furtherance of the good news from the first day [when Lydia opened her home for the preaching of the Word] until this particular moment [as characterized by the gift which you have sent],



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Now from Wuest's expanded translation continued, v6-8:

***1:6 having come to this settled and firm persuasion concerning this very thing, namely, that He who began in you a work which is good [their financial support of Paul] will bring it to a successful conclusion right up to the day of Christ Jesus.**

7 Even as it is only just and right on my part to be constantly turning my mind in the direction of this very thing in behalf of all of you [namely, the completion of God's good work in you], because you are holding me in your heart both in my defense and in my confirmation of the good news, all of you being sharers with me in this grace,

8 for my witness is God, how I long after all of you with the tenderheartednesses of Christ Jesus.



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Wuest's expanded translation continued, v9-11:

***1:9 And this is the constant purport of my definite petitions, namely, that your love [divine and self-sacrificial in its nature as ministered to you by the Holy Spirit] yet more and more might overflow, but at the same time be kept within the guiding limitations of an accurate knowledge [of God's word] gained by experience, and those [guiding limitations] of every kind of sensitive moral and ethical tact,**

¹⁰so that you may after putting them to the test [of God's word] recognize the true value of the finer distinctions involved in Christian conduct and thus sanction them, in order that you might be unadulterated [by evil] and thus pure and not a stumbling block in view of the day of Christ,

¹¹having been filled full with the fruit of righteousness and continue in that condition of fullness, which fruit is through Jesus Christ, resulting in the glory and praise of God.



Philippians 1:12-14 Imprisonment in the cause of Christ

Wuest's expanded translation continued, v12-14:

***1:12** Now, after mature consideration my desire is that you gain this knowledge from [my] experience, namely, that the things which are holding me down [those associated with my imprisonment] have come to result rather in the pioneer advance of the good news,

13 so that it has become plainly recognized that my shackles are because of Christ, this recognition of their true meaning existing throughout the whole of the Praetorium Guard and among all the rest.

14 And the great majority of the brethren having come to a state of settled confidence in the Lord, having been influenced by the gentle persuasion of my shackles to take that step of confidence, are more abundantly bold, fearlessly breaking their silence and speaking the word of God