

Unexpected Joy, Part 1 Philippians 1:12-18

²³ Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. ²⁶ *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; ²⁷ *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸ Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches. 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

The **guiding directive** of Paul's life was to **proclaim Christ** and **His gospel**.

A. The Gospel: Unhindered by Imperfect Circumstances

²⁰ Since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was assailing *us*, from then on all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned. Acts 27:20

¹⁶ When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him. Acts 28:16

³⁰ And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, ³¹ preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered. Acts 28:30-31

²⁰ For this reason, therefore, I requested to see you and to speak with you, for I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel." Acts 28:20

Paul describes two phases in which the gospel has been effectively advanced. It has served to:

1. **Evangelize** his captors. (vs. 13)

¹² "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake. ¹³ It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. Luke 21:12-13

Gene Getz, *"No doubt guard after guard walked away from Paul's side, scratching his head and wondering what it was all about."*

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

Evangelism was so woven into the fabric of who Paul was that the question that occupied his mind was, "**How** will I proclaim Christ in my **current situation**?"

2. **Encourage** believers. (vs.14)

- a. **Fervent trust** in the Lord.
- b. They have **far more courage**.
- c. They speak **boldly**.

⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; ⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸ *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory... I Corinthians 2:6-8