

Philippians Bible Study - Lesson 2 - **Philippians 1:12-26**

September 29, 2024

Philippians 1:12-14

1. In all things, God is at work! Here Paul tells the Philippians not to be worried about his imprisonment, because it has given him an opportunity to preach the gospel/good news.
 - a. Εὐαγγελίου (euangelion) - the Greek word that means gospel/good news, is also the word from which our word evangelism comes.
 - b. The gospel is meant to be preached in all circumstances.
2. In jail, Paul's preaching led to two different wonderful outcomes.
 - a. The "whole imperial guard" (ESV) / "palace guard" (NIV) – Praetorians (πραιτωρίω).
 - i. You may recognize the word "Praetorian" from books/movies. These were guards of high standing in Rome, and because of Paul's imprisonment, they all know about Jesus Christ!
 - b. The other imprisoned Christians ("brothers, having become confident in the Lord") saw Paul's faith and fervor and were emboldened to follow his lead.
3. What unique situation are you in now where can you share the gospel? With your family? Neighbors? Doctors, nurses or fellow patients?

Philippians 1:15-18a

4. Paul points out that among the "brothers" who were evangelizing, there were those doing it out of love for Paul and his mission, and those who were doing so out of rivalry. Some were trying to make a name for themselves or hurt Paul in some way by showing their own holiness.
 - a. So what?! (v. 18) - we should not be worried about our own name. Paul is just happy that Christ is being proclaimed.

Philippians 1:18b-20

5. Paul's expectant hope is that Christ will be honored in the proclamation of his mouth or the giving of his life as a martyr.
 - a. Our own nature seeks to minimize discomfort, but the readiness to embrace whatever suffering may come as an opportunity to share the gospel is a glorious virtue.

Philippians 1:21-26

- Memory verse - Philippians 1:21 - "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."
6. Phil. 1:23-24 - Luther's Small Catechism 223.: *What happens to me as a Christian when I die?*
 - a. "When I die, the God-given unity of my body and spirit will be broken. I will immediately be in the presence of Christ, in heaven, but my body will remain in the grave until the resurrection."
 7. Paul did expect to be released from prison (v. 25-26), that he might continue his service in advancing the gospel. Scholars believe that he was because it is thought that Paul wrote this between AD 60-62 during his first imprisonment that brought him to Rome.

God bless!

-Pastor Brubaker