

Living for Christ in Our Brokenness

Philippians 1:19-26

Themes in Philippians:

- Joy and Rejoicing!
- Humility
- Living for Christ in Our Brokenness

Overview:

- Important contributing factors
- How We View Our Trials Shapes How We Respond In Them
- What We Are to Use to Minister to Brokenness

Philippians

1:19-26

Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians

1:19-26

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

Philippians

1:19-26

yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

Important Factors...

Important Factors

- Paul's former life as a Pharisee
- "Taken hold of by Christ"
- Lived by the letter of the Law
- Now lives by the spirit of the Law

Important Factors

Romans 7:6

“so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.”

Salvation changed Paul's pursuit and
his methodology.

Important Factors, cont.

- Imprisoned in Jerusalem
- A mob was stirred up against him (Acts 21:27)
- Two plots to have him killed – moved to Caesarea
- Forgotten in prison for 2 years

Important Factors, cont.

Acts 26:32

“And Agrippa said to Festus, ‘This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar’.”

Important Factors, cont.

- Paul was innocent of crimes or wrongdoing
- Could not receive a fair trial
- Undeserved and unjust suffering

Important Factors, cont.

- The system is broken...
- And God leaves Paul in the brokenness

Brokenness - Defined

Cambridge Dictionary

A condition in which something is badly damaged and unable to continue or work correctly:, a state of strong emotional pain that stops someone from living a normal or healthy life

Brokenness - Defined

Oxford Dictionary

In the state of being “violently separated into parts (i.e. shattered); damaged or altered by or as if by breaking, such as fractured, not working properly, violated by transgression, disconnected.”

Brokenness...

Romans 8:17, 20, 22-23

“If children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him... For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it.

Brokenness...

Romans 8:17, 20, 22-23

For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.”

Brokenness in this world is presented as normal

Paul does not seek to “fix” it

How We View Trials Shapes How We Respond to them

We all see, experience and feel the
brokenness

We all respond to and in the brokenness

Experiencing Brokenness...

Jesus promised trials to all who would follow him

John 16:33

“In the world you have tribulation, but take
courage;

I have overcome the world.”

Experiencing Brokenness...

John 15:18, 25

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.”

“But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their

Experiencing Brokenness...

Matthew 24:9-13

“They will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

Experiencing Brokenness...

Matthew 24:9-13

Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

Experiencing Brokenness...

Paul was promised suffering

Acts 9:15-16

“But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake’.”

Experiencing Brokenness...

Therefore, Paul could promise trials to all who would follow

1 Timothy 3:12

“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

Experiencing Brokenness...

Lamentations 3:32-33

For if He causes grief,
Then He will have compassion
According to His abundant lovingkindness.
For He does not afflict willingly,
or grieve the sons of men.

Experiencing Brokenness...

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“I do not say that God never afflicts his people except for their sin. For he may do it for their trial (1 Ptr 4:12).”

- John Flavel, *The Mystery of Providence*

The Usefulness of Trials

1. Trials, Difficulties and Brokenness Reveal Our Hearts

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Deuteronomy 8:2

“You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.”

The Usefulness of Trials

1. Trials, Difficulties and Brokenness Reveal Our Hearts

James 1:2-4

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

The Usefulness of Trials

1. Trials, Difficulties and Brokenness Reveal Our Hearts

1 Peter 4:12

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you.”

The Usefulness of Trials

1. Trials, Difficulties and Brokenness Reveal Our Hearts
2. Trials, Difficulties and Brokenness Bring Ministry To Us

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2 Corinthians 1:3-5

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

The Usefulness of Trials

2. Trials, Difficulties and Brokenness Bring Ministry To Us

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.”

The Usefulness of Trials

1. Trials, Difficulties and Brokenness Reveal Our Hearts
2. Trials, Difficulties and Brokenness Bring Ministry To Us
3. Trials, Difficulties and Brokenness Facilitate Ministry Through Us

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3. Trials, Difficulties and Brokenness Facilitate Ministry

Through Us

Phil. 1:18-21

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The Usefulness of Trials

3. Trials, Difficulties and Brokenness Facilitate Ministry

Through Us

Phil. 1:18-21

But that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

The Usefulness of Trials

Philippians 1:12

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

The Usefulness of Trials

Philippians 1:12

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

What Paul Does Say...

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

Brokenness has not separated us from Christ.

What Paul Does Say...

“to die is gain”

The threat of death is not the concern for Paul

Paul’s death concerns the Philippian church, and that concerns Paul.

What Paul Does Say...

v.23-25

“But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

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Paul sees the chains/brokenness as useful

~~rather than~~

to a relationship

with Christ.

1 Peter 1:6-7

“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 5:10

“After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.”

Romans 13:10

“Love does not wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

What Paul Uses to Address the Brokenness

The change in methodology...

In the Spirit of the Law

Galatians 6:2

“Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill
the
law of Christ

”

In the Spirit of the Law

Phil. 1:15-18

Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, [... they] proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice.”

In the Spirit of the Law

John 8:2-11

“Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him, and He sat down and began to teach them. The Scribes and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court, they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act.

In the Spirit of the Law

John 8:2-11

Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do you say?” They were saying this, testing him, so that they might have grounds for accusing him. But Jesus stooped down and with his finger wrote on the ground. But when they persisted in asking him, he straightened up, and said to them,

In the Spirit of the Law

John 8:2-11

“He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again, He stooped down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court.

In the Spirit of the Law

John 8:2-11

Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.”

In the Spirit of the Law

Matthew 9:13

“But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire compassion, and not a sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent.”

In the Spirit of the Law

John 12:47

“If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.”

In the Spirit of the Law

Romans 2:4

“... the kindness of God leads you to repentance.”

Final Encouragement

Hebrews 4:15-16

“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

