

Both Ends of the Chain

Philippians 1:12-14

Philippians

1:12-14

Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, 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.

Some Important Background

Paul's Desire to go to Rome – Romans 1:10-15

Getting Paul to Rome – Acts 21-28

Getting Paul to Rome

Acts 23:35, “[Felix] gave orders for him to be kept in Herod’s Praetorium”

Acts 24:23, “Then he gave orders to the centurion for him to be kept in custody and yet have some freedom, and not to prevent any of his friends from ministering to him.”

Getting Paul to Rome

Acts 24:27, “But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul imprisoned.”

Acts 26:32, “And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

Getting Paul to Rome

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

Praetorian Guard

- Quell Rebellion or Insurrection
- Elite Soldiers
- Became Caesar's Personal Bodyguard
- King-Makers
- Influencers

Not In Spite of, but Because Of

Philippians 1:12-13

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God placed Paul in this circumstance in order to...

1. **MOBILIZE** the Message

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life.

God placed Paul in this circumstance in order to...

1. **MOBILIZE** the Message
2. **MULTIPLY** the Message

Philippians 1:14

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1. **MOBILIZE** the Message
2. **MULTIPLY** the Message
3. **MAGNIFY** the Message

Colossians 1:24

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

God placed Paul in this circumstance in order to...

1. **MOBILIZE** the Message
2. **MULTIPLY** the Message
3. **MAGNIFY** the Message

Philippians 1:27-30

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by your opponents -

Philippians 1:27-30

which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God. For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Acts 1:8

“You shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

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Acts 7:60

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8:1

And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

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8:1 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.

And on that day a great persecution began against the church **in Jerusalem**, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of **Judea** and **Samaria**, except the apostles.

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church"

– Tertullian 197 A.D.

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”

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”

Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

“In the Cause of Christ”

Phil. 1:13

“my imprisonment *in the cause of Christ* has become well known”

God Placed Paul in the Chains

Ephesians 3:1

“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus...”

Ephesians 4:1

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord...”

God Placed Paul in the Chains

Heb 6:19-20

“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

God Placed Paul in the Chains

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Philippians 3:12

“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that which also I was laid hold of by Christ.”

“In the Cause of Christ”

Paul was chained to Christ

Christ was chained to Paul

Concluding Thoughts

Christ has chained you to him and himself to you as a means of hope...

To be an anchor to your soul.

And to fulfill his promise to never leave you or forsake you.

