

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 1:12-14

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN” – PART 2

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Joy, Peace, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

Acts 17:16-28

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. 17 Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. 18 Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babbling man want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? 20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” 21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. 22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; 23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being,

Paul took keen advantage of the fact that no matter how educated the Athenians were, they were a people who realized that life was subject to the powers and whims of the gods.

PREVIOUSLY

THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN RECOGNIZES WHAT’S REALLY UNDER THEIR SKIN

1.) **Recognizing** what’s under your skin vs. 8-11

That the Christian has an absolutely different relationship with eternity.

The thrill of that reality is not only based on the foundation of the Scriptures themselves, but upon the observable fact that God changes lives.

This powerful truth can be summed up with this compilation of scripture...

Acts 2:21, Romans 8:29-31, 2 Corinthians 5:15-17, Philippians 1:6

And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.' - For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called...
...whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? - and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. - Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. - **being confident** of this **very thing**, that He who has **begun a good work in you will complete it until** the day of Jesus Christ;

**THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN
REALIZES THE CENTRALITY OF THEIR EXISTENCE**

2.) **Realizing** the centrality of our existence vs. 12-14

**By “Centrality” I mean, The Importance, Uniqueness, Exclusivity
That belongs to Humanity alone, having been created by God in His moral likeness, we are by
nature - intentional beings.**

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

OUR TEXT

Philippians 1:12-14

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which **happened** to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, **13** so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; **14** and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

If I'm healthy this morning or happy, if all is going well with me,
this could be a nice Bible study to learn about. But if my life is in the balances, my health is failing or my world feels as though it is collapsing - - then this lesson could save my life.

How could Paul endure what he did – with joy!!!

**THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN
REALIZES THE CENTRALITY OF THEIR EXISTENCE**

2a.) We see things not as they seem vs. 12

But I want you to **know**, brethren, that **the things** which **happened** to me have actually turned out for the **furtherance** of the gospel

Emotionally, we tend to focus on just a portion of this verse;

“the things which happened to me” : (

But I want you to know

know ginwɨskw ginosko, *ghin-occe´-ko*;

to “**know**” absolutely or knowing something completely, through and through. To have full knowledge of, absolute awareness of, to have perfect understanding of.

It’s the True Ministry of all of God’s Servants

Imagine a young mother standing at the bus stop with Jr. as they await the school bus... to “**know**” absolutely or knowing something completely, through and through. To have full knowledge of, absolute awareness of, to have perfect understanding of. “*Stay away from weirdo’s. don’t pick your nose, pay attention to what is right, use the boys bathroom* (for our California students) *and no matter what, Remember - Jesus loves you!*”

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that **all** (the, every, any) **things** work together for good (1) to those who love God, (2) to those who are the called according to His purpose. **29** (3) For whom He foreknew, (4) He also predestined to be (5) **conformed** to the image of His Son,

How could pain and hardship advance the Gospel?

Because Pain and Hardship is Mankind’s Sad Reality

Listen to Paul’s Prayer - - for himself

Philippians 3:10

(1) that I may know Him (2) and the power of His resurrection, (3) and the fellowship of His sufferings, (result) being conformed to His death, (*because death in Christ means new life*)

But I want you to know absolutely, knowing this completely, through and through, having full knowledge of, absolute awareness of, to have perfect understanding of this reality – **IT’S NOT AS IT SEEMS**

Because The Gospel “in us” is the central thing

Paul sees the things which had happened to him as having great potential.

He sees them as being a precursor to an opportunity.
He sees them as a God-glorifying thing.

Romans 5:3-5

For we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

**The same God who used Moses’ Rod and Gideon’s Pitcher
and David’s Sling; Is the exact same God who used Paul’s roman chains!
Paul was Rejoicing in the Results of his Suffering.**

a Christian will not suffer without a purpose and so it is well that we look over the pain and sorrow to the coming benefit.

Paul saw everything in light of his calling

Acts 9:15-16

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

Yeah right - Paul had his calling to lean on, What about me?

**"Hey Paul, the ship is sinking"
it's ok I haven't been to Rome yet.**

**"Hey Paul, those religious leaders are plotting against you"
it's ok I haven't planted churches in Asia yet .**

**"Hey Paul, there's a group of zealots trying to kill you"
it's ok I haven't ministered in Europe yet.**

The Gospel confronts the question of suffering

It's almost as though, with the wave of his hand, Paul dismisses the details of his sufferings and goes right to the "results from his suffering".

Acts 20:22-24

And see, now I go bound (chained) in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But **none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself**, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus,

The Question;

"Why do bad things happen to good people?"

Has an Equally Valid Counter-Question;

"Why do good things happen to bad people?"

If God is a God of love, why do good people suffer.

Because we live in a broken world but thankfully, there are good things that come out of our sufferings.

Job 1:20-21

Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. **21** And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."

Paul had learned to **consecrate** his chains

2 Timothy 2:9

I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.

Paul allowed the Gospel to "make sense" of the question of suffering

He consecrated his chains to God.

"Hey look Lord, your servant is chained to _____

What are we going to do

we need to learn today to **consecrate** our chains to God.

The Gospel answers the question of "why"

**THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN
REALIZES THE CENTRALITY OF THEIR EXISTENCE**

2b.) We see that there are no accidents

vs. 13

so that it has become **evident** to the whole palace guard,
and to all the rest, **that my chains are in Christ;**

What good can come out of my situation?

so that it has become **evident** that my chains are in Christ

evident fanero/β phaneros, fan-er-os´;

to shine or be shining, to be known publicly, for all to know of.

People Talk – and when the issue is of importance, talk can be a good thing.

evident to the whole **palace guard,**

**And how in the world would you get the Gospel inside
the Palace of the Emperor of the World in Rome?**

His chains were the very tools that God used to put Paul in contact with the Roman Guards...

"I pray without ceasing, telling every man everywhere

I go about the love of God, I live to make Jesus Christ known, I am waiting for Jesus' return so you had better receive Christ now while you can..."

I meet Christians all the time, who ask me, "Pastor will you pray for me because I have been wrongly accused or betrayed at work or lied about in my family".

Are you willing to obey the scriptures this morning, and agree with God that, "the things which happened to you have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel."

Life on the Other Side of Suffering

(Through the long, dark night of pain, the man inside of you is developed)

Luke 22:24, 31

Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest...**31** And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. **32** But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

That there is a greater purpose for your life

That there are things that look routine but are anything but

That the goal of our lives is to love Jesus more

**THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN
REALIZES THE CENTRALITY OF THEIR EXISTENCE**

2c.) We see what's on the other side of ouch vs. 14

and **most** (the majority) of the brethren in the Lord, having become **confident** by my chains, are **much more bold to speak** the word **without fear**.

In a normal world,

Seeing someone arrested and imprisoned for speaking about Jesus Christ would naturally have a silencing effect upon believers.

But the world we live in is not normal – it's supernatural.

Can my testimony be used in someone else's life?

Cuz Christians become more:

confident *pei÷qw peitho, pi'-tho*; to stand with evidence or authority), to rely

Cuz Christians become more:

Bold tolmaꝯw tolmao, *tol-mah'-o*; boldness in the extreme conduct, to venture out, to be courageous, without flinching.

Cuz Christians become more:

speak lalēw laleo, *lal-eh'-o*; = to talk **conversationally**, to speak without hesitation. to speak casually. to make it everyday talk. a way of life.

Psalm 89:1

I will **sing** of the mercies of the LORD forever; **With my mouth** will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

Isaiah 63:7a

I will **mention** (talk) the lovingkindnesses of the LORD And the praises of the LORD, According to all that the LORD has bestowed on us,

Cuz Christians become more;

fearless / without fear ajfo/bwß aphobos, *af-ob'-oce*; fearless, without yielding to fear.

Acts 7:55-60

But Stephan, being full of the Holy Spirit, **gazed** into heaven and **saw** (seeing) the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "**Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!**" 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 **and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses** (stoners) **laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man** (the supervisor of the stoners) **named Saul.** 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "*Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.*" 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "*Lord, do not charge them with this sin.*" And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Did you catch it? - - what Stephen saw on the other side of hurt, of ouch,
of pain, of death?**

**His chains were the very tools that God used to
Encourage other Christians to get with it.**

This is the result of "God-Ordained suffering"

If God has taken care of me today, then He will take care of me tomorrow, and if tomorrow then next month and...

This is the proof that others need to see.

This is the mission, the central call for us as a fellowship.

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

End of Study