

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTERS 1:15-21

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX-879 SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN” – PART 3

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Joy, Peace, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

How Big is the Cause for Which you are Living?

What or Who is Your Great Reason for Getting Out of Bed?

Romans 8:38-39, 2 Timothy 1:12

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, *(note the effect)* **2 Timothy 1:12** For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, **for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded** that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. *(I trust Him)*

This Reality of God, Knowing God Personally,

And The Amazing Possessive Border to Share Him with Others is What Drove Paul, not from country to country, but from city to city, and from person to person.

Paul, the Man - Personality / Suffering / Rejection

We need to be reminded that Paul was a real man with an intense personality. As a student at the top of the class, as a Pharisee, unsurpassed in knowledge. High achievers often have a sensitivity that gets the best of them. Paul was a man just like us, maybe even more of a human than we allow him to be.

THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN

1.) Recognizing what's under your skin	vs. 8-11
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2.) Realizing the centrality of your mission	vs. 12-14
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THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN

3.) Rejoicing in the face of everything

vs. 15-21

Philippians 1:15-21

Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: **16** The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; **17** but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. **18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, **Christ is** preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, **and will** rejoice. **19** **For I** know that this will turn out for **my** deliverance through **your prayer** and the **supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ**, **20** according to my earnest expectation and **hope** that **in nothing I shall be** ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me, to live **is** Christ, and to die **is** gain.

3a.) Rejoice - **opposition** has its purpose

vs. 15-17

15a Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: **16** The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; **17** but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

- The Opposition of **other** believers (attitudes)
- The Opposition of **false** believers (counterfeits)
- The Opposition of **immature** believers (legalists)

Envy *φῶ/νοῖς phthonos, fthon'-os*; ill-will, jealousy, tainted motives.

They preached the exact same Jesus, the exact same message, the exact same resurrection – they were doctrinally accurate. They were right, - - but they were dead right because they did good from an ungodly motivation.

They said what Paul said so they could have the
“**same name about town**” that Paul had.

THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN

Listen - **envy** is the **internal motivation** from carnal desires.

1 Corinthians 13:4

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not **envy**; love does not **parade** itself, is not **puffed** up;

15a ... and strife

The **internal envy** from a jealous, carnal heart produces:

Strife *εἰρήνῃ eris, er'-is*; quarreling, debates, divisions, at variance with. hindrances

So then, **divisions** are the **outward expression**.

We can have all the right doctrines, right opinions, right answers, and be as wicked as the wicked.

Envy & Strife is the Proof that Pride is in the Heart.

God has no Rock Stars on His Tour.

If a servant of God is being used and recognized, that servant must always be on-guard to redirect that attention toward Jesus Christ.

If you have to be “on-top” , or the “boss” , or have the “last word” , then you are struggling with your own identity. You really do not know who you are and because of that insecurity – you always have to win.

James 4:1-3

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? **2** You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. **3** And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong - you want only what will give you pleasure.

Rejoice - **opposition** has its purpose.

Paul could not strive with these guys because he had no envy. To envy is to want to be like someone else or to have what someone else has.

“Paul didn't want what they had – Strife!”

Some sought to “**gain numbers**” to themselves,
(to them numbers were a sign of spiritual success).

Some sought to “**gain influence**” for themselves,
(Controlling the lives of others, legalism was a sign of spiritual success).

Some sought to “**gain power**” to themselves,
(To them numbers equaled money & power, a sign of spiritual success).

...and some also from goodwill:

Goodwill **eujdoki**=a **eudokia**, *yoo-dok-ee'-ah*; out of delight, out of good pleasure. like a healthy fountain head of water

16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;

selfish ambition **ejriqei÷a eritheia**, *er-ith-i'-ah*; to divide or split, to canvas or crisscross the land to gain support. To sway or win people to your side. the word means to campaign or to rally support as with an election.

They preached "Jesus" not for the effect and transformational power of the Gospel to the hearer, but that they might have a "Reputation" .

affliction **qli÷yiß thlipsis**, *thlip'-sis*; to rub against the iron. (chains) to place pressure upon. to create friction, tension. to add to the weight of the mind. to create troubling thoughts. to terrorize the mind. Cause anguish, to chain the mind and the emotions. – **THESE DEMAND THAT YOU PICK A SIDE.**

"Look Paul, while you' ve been locked up in jail, probably because of some sin God is punishing you for, our reputations and names have been growing – pretty soon Paul, people wont even know who you are."

Look, if you cut a Christian, he will bleed. But what does a Christian do when he is cut and how does a Christian handle the blood? - - That's what makes the Christian different in this world.

Their plans and motives were actually helping. How?

Because Paul was dead to his fame and influence. He saw what was good in his life as having come from God. He saw what was not good in his life as coming from himself.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

love **ajgaçph agape**, *ag-ah'-pay*; love, i.e. affection or benevolence;

appointed **keivmai keimai**, *ki'-mahee*; a military term to mean that I have been given my orders. to stay at your post. to hold your ground. To be locked and loaded, on duty!

defense **ajpologi÷a apologia**, *ap-ol-og-ee'-ah*; to be fully armed for the defense. To announce the "what for" – to make known the "why are you pleading, arguing, giving reasons and logic to your position" = Jesus!

Paul didn't preach and debate to win, (that had already been decided).

He did it because "It's all true".

What is True is greater than everything because truth is of God, eternal, never failing, always true.

THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN REJOICING IN THE FACE OF EVERYTHING

3b.) Rejoice - **critics** must hear the message

vs. 18-20a

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ **is** preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, **and will** rejoice. **19 For I know** that this will turn out for **my deliverance** through **your prayer** (and) the **supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ**, 20a according to my **earnest expectation** and **hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed,**

**18 This “What then? Only that...”
what of it or who cares or I could care less!**

every way tro/poß **tropos**, *trop'-os*; a turn, by mode or by style. To carry, deportment (posture) or character.

Pretense pro/fasiß **prophasis**, *prof'-as-is*; by show. By act. We would say production or program. - - smoke and mirrors and lights and...

Matthew 23:14

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a **Pretense make long prayers**. (*they sought to cover up their sinfulness by praying*) Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

Preached katagge÷llw **kataggello**, *kat-ang-gel'-lo*; spoken of, proclaimed, declared, announced like that of a heralded.

Q: How did Paul get into all this trouble? –

Speaking of Jesus, Proclaiming Jesus, Declaring Jesus, Announcing Jesus

Q: What is Paul doing now that he is in jail? –

Speaking of Jesus, Proclaiming Jesus, Declaring Jesus, Announcing Jesus

Q: What do you think Paul will do if he does get out of jail? –

Speak of Jesus, Proclaim Jesus, Declare Jesus, Announce Jesus

rejoice cai÷rw **chairō**, *khah'-ee-ro*; a primary verb; to be “cheer”ful, i.e. calmly happy or well-off; impersonally, especially as salutation (on meeting or parting), be well: — farewell, be glad, God speed, greeting, hall, joy(- fully), rejoice.

19 For I know that this will turn out for
my deliverance through **your prayer** (and) the **supply of the Spirit** of Jesus Christ,

**BEING THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN
Paul knew that ultimately Jesus was his Reason & Resource**

Philippians 2:13

for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

20 according to my **earnest expectation** and **hope** that **in nothing I shall be ashamed**,

earnest expectation ajpokaradoki÷a **apokaradokia**, *ap-ok-ar-ad-ok-ee'-ah*; relentless watching, intense anticipation, constant longing, obsession.

ashamed, aijscu/nomai **aischunomai**, *ahee-skhoo'-nom-ahee*. disgrace, to be let down or made to feel ashamed, to never be ashamed.

Romans 10:9-11

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **11** For the Scripture says, **“Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”**

THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN REJOICING IN THE FACE OF EVERYTHING

3c.) Rejoice – **life** and **death** belong to Jesus

vs. 20b-21

20b but with all **boldness**,

Boldness *par-rhe-sia*, *par-rhay-see'-ah*; publicity, an out-spokenness, open frankness, bluntness, to come out speaking without inhibition.

Like Ollie's "Open Frankness" – Close your eyes papa!

20b as always, so now also

Christ will be **magnified** in my body, whether **by life** or **by death**.

21 For to me, to **live is Christ**, and to **die is gain**.

Here is Paul's Motive for being a Christian:

20b Christ will be **magnified** but with all **boldness**, **as always**, so now also

Christ will be **magnified!!!**

Psalm 34:1-3

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. **2** My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. **3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me**, And let us exalt His name together.

While Paul was in chains, Jesus was being made known.

While Paul was being criticized, The Gospel was being preached.

While Paul was in a crisis, Christ was being **magnified**.

"So now also Christ will be magnified in my body,

Magnified *megalunw megaluno*, *meg-al-oo'-no*; made to be seen larger. to enlarge the view of, to provide a more authentic view of.

>>>>>> This seems a little odd at first <<<<<<<

How can a mere human being like Paul, like us - Magnify God?

Does God Need Us to Magnify Him - - of course not!

Meaning – Outside issues and situations create the opportunity for Jesus Christ to be more accurate.

Astronomically - Cosmologically

When you look at stars, if you really want to see just how awesome they really are you have to use a telescope. The stars are much greater than the telescope, but the telescope helps me to see the bigger picture.

So it is with our lives, we are the little telescopes that allow others to see more of our God, and in a greater and bigger way through our Christian-crisis.

This "Magnification" comes out of our "Boldness" in the Face of...

Hebrews 10:19

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Paul's prayer request is; "Pray that I might be bolder and bolder."

Timidity is the Sin of **Cowardice**. A loving bold Christian magnifies Jesus.

Paul discovered that "knowing Jesus Christ personally, privately, specifically, produced in Him a unique Boldness. You cannot separate boldness from obedience. (love = obedience = boldness = a surrendered life).

I love how kids think that there dad is the fastest, wisest, strongest and bestest.

Hebrews 2:11

For both He (Jesus Christ) who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He (Jesus Christ) is not ashamed to call them (us) **brethren**,

John 15:15a NLT

I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves.
Now you are my **friends**,

21 For to me, to **live is Christ**, and to **die is gain**.

If I live or if I die – what I have lived for and what I am willing to die for are one and the same – it' s Jesus Christ and His Gospel. That is why I can never be ashamed or be put to shame.

We have word association board games we play,

In Our Day

When I mention the name **Jack Nicklaus** you think of.... "**Golf**"

When I mention the name **Pete Rose** you think of.... "**Baseball**"

In the 1st Century

When you mentioned the name **Paul** people thought... "**Christ**"

...to die is gain.

What is it like for the Christian to die? - - Paul tells us.

Living is all about Jesus. To Die is to be with Him – I choose Jesus!

It's not dying, then to be dead. It's going on into LIFE!

Die ajpoqnh/skw apothnesko, *ap-oth-nace'-ko*; to die off or to walk off the stage. to sail away. to let go of the moorings.

This word does not mean the process of death.

The pain, the sickness, the wasting away – rather the word means: **at the instant of - The Moment a Christian is Separated from His Body by Death, At that instant he is welcomed by Jesus Christ Himself.**

We've seen a modern day example of this in the extreme,

http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2015/02/16/25B83DC000000578-2955249-Horror_A_new_video_has_been_released_by_ISIS_showing_the_behead-a-10_1424094014544.jpg

Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. **25** For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Funeral directors work hard to distract us from the reality that a death has occurred. They fix up uncle Billy-Bop better than ever. I have seen some people look better after they had died than when they were alive – It doesn't change the fact:

When the **rich** man dies, what does he keep?

When the **philosopher** man dies, what does he know?

When the **poor** man dies, what does he gain?

When the **religious** man dies, where does he go?

But when the **believer** dies, what does he have? - **Jesus Christ**

For to me, to live Christ, and to die, gain.

In this declaration, Paul hints at the Names of God.

End of Study

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