

Theme: Despite very difficult personal circumstances, Paul is filled with joy because Christ is being proclaimed.

I. Intro – Change of Plans

- A. Ever have your plans changed by someone else?
- B. How do we respond when things change?
- C. Paul had plans to visit Rome – as a free man!
- D. How will he respond when his freedom is taken?

II. Paul's Current Situation: Prison

- A. What has happened to Paul (v12)
- B. Paul is in prison (v13, 17)
- C. Consider how hard this would be for Paul
- D. Philippians – how will the Gospel still spread?

III. Paradox – The Gospel is Free to Spread

- A. Surprise (*μᾶλλον*) – the Gospel advances (v12)
- B. The word of God not chained (2 Tim 2:8-9)
- C. The Gospel advances – through Paul (v13)
- D. The Gospel advances through others (v14)
- E. Gospel advances to new strata of society (v13)
- F. Paul in prison – God's Trojan horse!

IV. A Problem of Different Motives?

- A. Two different sets of motives (v15-17)
- B. Two different reactions to Paul (v15-17)
- C. These are brothers – not heretics (vv14-17)
- D. Envy, rivalry, selfish ambition with Paul (v15; 1Co 1:11-12)
- E. Want to increase troubles for Paul (v17)
- F. Some ideas on who they might be...

V. Paul's Amazing Response

- A. Christ is proclaimed! (v18a)
- B. I rejoice! (v18a)
- C. What matters is Christ proclaimed!!!

VI. Applying the Word

- A. What are my chains?
 - 1. What circumstances do I find difficult?
 - 2. Do I let them keep me from serving God?
- B. Who does God have me chained to?
 - 1. Paul chained & proclaimed Christ to his guard
 - 2. Who am I chained to? (family, workers, neighbors)

3. Do I proclaim Christ to them – even if I don't like situation?

C. Where is my joy found?

1. Is my joy found in circumstances?

2. Is my joy found in the Gospel & its progress?

Joy in the Journey (Part 1): Proclaiming Christ

Philippians 1:12-18a

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Psalm 67

8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

2 Timothy 2:8-9

11 My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12 What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:11-12