

LESSON 2 Week of September 20, 2020
PHILIPPIANS 1:12-30 - REJOICING IN CHAINS

Observe Philippians 1:12-30 (What does it say?)

Paul, from prison, assures the Philippians that the gospel is still advancing. How is that happening?

What is the correct way to preach Christ?

Do any of words or themes mentioned in the introduction – joy (or a derivative), fellowship, in Christ, grace and gospel - appear in this passage?

Why does Paul rejoice?

What words or phrases of encouragement do you find in this passage?

Interpret Philippians 1:12-30 (What does it mean?)

Write down and then answer any questions you have about the reading or any confusing terms.

What is the clearest meaning of this text?

Where do we see Paul's understanding of Christ in this passage (Christology)?

How does the passage connect back to the Gospels and the broader message/themes of the Bible?

Application of Philippians 1:12-30 (What does it mean for you?)

As mentioned in the Introduction, a commentator titles Chapter 1 as "Joy in Living." How do you see Paul living with joy in these verses?

What challenges you in this passage?

Where do you find hope and/or encouragement in this passage?

What verse or phrase in this passage is specifically helpful to you in this season of life? Why?

Based on your time spent with this passage, what does it mean for your life, priorities, and decisions?

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-30 FOR FAMILIES

Philippians 1:12-30 (NIRV)

Paul Spreads the Good News While in Prison

12 Brothers and sisters, here is what I want you to know. What has happened to me has actually helped to spread the good news. 13 One thing has become clear. I am being held by chains because I am a witness for Christ. All the palace guards and everyone else know it. 14 And because I am a prisoner, most of the believers have become bolder in the Lord. They now dare even more to preach the good news without fear.

15 It's true that some preach about Christ because they are jealous. But others preach about Christ to help me in my work. 16 The last group acts out of love. They know I have been put here to be a witness for the good news. 17 But the others preach about Christ only to get ahead. They preach Christ for the wrong reasons. They think they can stir up trouble for me while I am being held by chains. 18 But what does it matter? Here is the important thing. Whether for right or wrong reasons, Christ is being preached about. That makes me very glad.

And I will continue to be glad. 19 I know that you are praying for me. I also know that God will give me the Spirit of Jesus Christ to help me. So no matter what happens, I'm sure I will still be set free. 20 I completely expect and hope that I won't be ashamed in any way. I'm sure I will be brave enough. Now as always Christ will receive glory because of what happens to me. He will receive glory whether I live or die. 21 For me, life finds all its meaning in Christ. Death also has its benefits. 22 Suppose I go on living in my body. Then I will be able to carry on my work. It will bear a lot of fruit. But what should I choose? I don't know! 23 I can't decide between the two. I long to leave this world and be with Christ. That is better by far. 24 But it is more important for you that I stay alive. 25 I'm sure of this. So I know I will remain with you. And I will continue with all of you to help you grow in your faith. I will also continue to help you be joyful in what you have been taught. 26 I'm sure I will be with you again. Then you will be able to boast in Christ Jesus even more because of me.

Living to Honor the Good News

27 No matter what happens, live in a way that brings honor to the good news about Christ. Then I will know that you remain strong together in the one Spirit. I will know this if I come and see you or only hear about you. I will know that you work together as one person. I will know that you work to spread the teachings about the good news. 28 So don't be afraid in any way of those who oppose you. This will show them that they will be destroyed and that you will be saved. That's what God will do. 29 Here is what he has given you to do for Christ. You must not only believe in him. You must also suffer for him. 30 You are going through the same struggle you saw me go through. As you have heard, I am still struggling.

(Family discussion questions on next page)

Read Philippians 1:12-30. Where is Paul writing from? To whom is he writing (who are his “brothers and sisters”)?

In Verses 15-18, Paul says twice that he is “glad.” Why is he glad?

Think of someone who doesn’t know who Jesus is. What would you tell them about Jesus? What is your favorite thing about Jesus?

What are your favorite Bible stories about Jesus? Tell a story about Jesus to a parent or someone close to you as a practice for when you have a chance to tell about Jesus to someone.

In Verse 19, Paul says, “I know you are praying for me.” Who prays for you? Who do you pray for? Make a list and use it to pray each day.

In Verse 28, Paul tells us not to be afraid of those who oppose the people who are telling the story of Jesus. Who do you think might oppose you if you tell them about Jesus? Include them in your prayer list.

As this passage ends, Paul writes that he is “still struggling.” Yet something good happened from a bad time for Paul - the good news, the story about Jesus, was still being told. Can you think of a time when something good came out of something bad in your life?