



# **In Chains For Christ**

*--Philippians 1:12-20*

# **In Chains for Christ**

***Aim Of This Lesson—***

**For Christians to see themselves  
“In Christ” regardless of  
circumstances, situations, or  
troubles in life.**

# In Chains for Christ

***Scripture text: --Philippians 1:12-20 niv***

**<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. <sup>15</sup> It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup> The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.**

# In Chains for Christ

***Scripture text: --Philippians 1:12-20 niv***

**<sup>17</sup> The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. <sup>18</sup> But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, <sup>19</sup> for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.**

# **In Chains for Christ**

- **How do you see things?**
- **When things go wrong, when difficulties arise, how do you react as a follower of Christ?**
- **Do you see purpose in them?**

# **In Chains for Christ**

- **Paul speaks of being imprisoned.**

**Philippians 1:13 *niv***

**<sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.**

- **The church at Philippi sent someone to check on Paul.**

**Philippians 2:25 *niv***

**<sup>25</sup> But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.**

# **In Chains for Christ**

- **Paul does not see himself as a prisoner, but as a man “IN Christ!”**
- **Many of you today are dealing right now with “chains”.**

**Your “chains”  
maybe ➔**

- |   |
|---|
| • <b>An illness or a disease and it has changed your way of life.</b>                     |
| • <b>Age related or financial security; concerned about how you will make ends meet.</b>  |
| • <b>Issues with their family, such as problems with their children or grandchildren.</b> |

# **In Chains for Christ**

**If you see yourself in "chains," I am hoping Paul will give your "chains" a new meaning this morning. Let me show you how Paul viewed his "chains":**

- 1) For the benefit of the gospel.**
- 2) An Opportunity for others to know Christ.**
- 3) Resulted in his greatest benefit and highest good.**



# **In Chains for Christ**

## **1. Paul viewed his “chains” *for the benefit of the Gospel.***

**Philippians 1:12 *niv***

**<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.**

- First this he does is tell the Philippians how the gospel is progressing.**
  - The gospel was going forth unrestricted, even though he is in chains.**

# **In Chains for Christ**

## **1. Paul viewed his “chains” *for the benefit of the Gospel.***

**Philippians 1:13 *niv***

**<sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.**

- The palace guard was a unique unit of soldiers who were among the best in the Roman army and devoted to Caesar.**
- Paid twice as much as anyone else and received more money at retirement.**
- Protected those who would stand trial before Caesar.**
  - For two years, one of Rome's best soldiers had to walk in every four hours and chain himself to Paul.**

# **In Chains for Christ**

## **1. Paul viewed his “chains” *for the benefit of the Gospel.***

- What did Paul do for four hours while he was chained to the soldier?**
- Who was chained to whom, after all?**

**Philippians 4:22 *nkjv***

**<sup>22</sup> All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.**

- How did the gospel find its way into Caesar's palace?**
- Is it possible that it was because Paul preached to his soldiers every day?**

# In Chains for Christ

## 2. Paul viewed his “chains” as *an opportunity for others to know Christ.*

**Philippians 1:14-15 *niv***

**<sup>14</sup> And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. <sup>15</sup> It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.**

- **Paul described what most people would consider a "setback" as "progress."**
  - **Paul was overjoyed that the gospel was being spread by those who harbored "envy and strife" against him.**

# In Chains for Christ

**2. Paul viewed his “chains” as *an opportunity for others to know Christ.***

**Philippians 1:17-18 *niv***

**<sup>17</sup> The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.**

- These people were probably glad Paul was in chains, and the irony is that Paul was glad he was in chains as well, for the sake of spreading the gospel.**

# In Chains for Christ

## 2. Paul viewed his “chains” as *an opportunity for others to know Christ*.

**Philippians 1:18 *niv***

**<sup>18</sup> But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, <sup>19</sup> *for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.***

- **Paul’s current imprisonment, as harsh and cruel as it was, will result in Paul’s greatest benefit and highest good! It is going to result in his deliverance or salvation.**

# In Chains for Christ

**3. Paul saw his “chains” resulted in his greatest and highest good.**

**Philippians 1:19 *niv***

***<sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.***

- **Two factors would contribute to his greatest benefit and highest good. One is human beings, and the other is divine.**
- **Their prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.**

# In Chains for Christ

3. Paul saw his “chains” resulted in his greatest and highest good.

- **Whatever they prayed for, Paul was inspired by their prayers to remain faithful...to trust God no matter what.**
- **Paul put his faith in the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.**



# In Chains for Christ

## 3. Paul saw his “chains” resulted in his greatest and highest good.

**Philippians 1:20 *niv***

**<sup>20</sup> I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.**

- **Paul saying, "I have no idea what will happen tomorrow."**
- **I am not sure what they're going to do next to me. They may never take these chains from me, and I may never leave this prison alive.**
  - **One thing is certain, however. Whatever happens, I will always honor Christ. It doesn't matter whether I die or live; either way, Jesus will be glorified."**

# **The Plan of Salvation**

**Hear**

**Romans 10:13-17**

**Believe**

**John 20:31, Hebrews 11:6**

**Repent**

**Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30**

**Confess**

**Romans 10:10, Matthew 10:32**

**Baptism**

**Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38**



# **How to Make a Request for Prayer** **or Baptism**

**PrayerRequests@whelesscoc.org**





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