

Philippians

A Letter Of Joy

CLASS 3 – Philippians 1:12f



Paul's Introduction

¹ Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, ⁵ in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

¹² Now I want you to know, brethren, that **my circumstances** have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, ¹³ so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, ¹⁴ and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

We read about Paul's circumstances in
Acts 28:16-31

“Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings” (Col 4:10)

“the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains” (Eph 6:19-20)”

“At the same time also prepare me a lodging, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given to you.” (Phm 1:22)

Paul's Trust in Providence

¹² Now I want you to know, brethren, that **my circumstances** have turned out for the **greater progress of the gospel**, ¹³ so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, ¹⁴ and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. ¹⁵ Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; ¹⁶ the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; ¹⁷ the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and **the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ**, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and **I do not know which to choose.**

²³ But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;



²⁴ yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

The Need To Stand Firm

²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that **whether I come and see you or remain absent**, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

²⁸ in no way alarmed by your opponents-- which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.

²⁹ For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.