

Epistle to the Philippians 1:12-26

A Short Course for Men

Structure

1:12-26 Paul's missionary report

12-17 Current conditions

12-14 Gospel progress

15-17 Advance with adversity

18-26 Constant attitude

18-20 Joy from the Lord

21-24 Death or more fruit

25-26 Progress and joy

1:12-17 Current conditions

¹² Dear friends, I want you to know that my situation has actually allowed the Good News to spread farther. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear, to the imperial guards, and to everyone else, that I am confined in chains as a Christian.

- Describe Paul's situation.

"I want you to know"

'I often intended to come to you' Rom 1:13

'All passed through the sea' 1 Cor 10:1

'Grace ... among the churches' 2 Cor 8:1

'Happened to advance the gospel' Phil 1:12

'The struggle I have for you' Col 2:1

¹⁴ Also, my being in chains has caused most of the Lord's people fearlessly to dare to speak the Lord's message. ¹⁵ Of course, some folk who announce the Messiah do so because they are envious and quarrelsome, but others do so with pure motives.

- What is the Lord's message?
- Envious of what? While quarrelsome?

¹⁶ These folk love me, knowing that my purpose is to defend the Good News. ¹⁷ But those others announce the Messiah with selfish motives, not pure motives, supposing that they can cause me more trouble while I am in confinement.

- Defend from what?
- More trouble from whom?

1:18-26 Constant attitude

¹⁸ So what? Well, by all means, whether by pretext or in sincerity, folk are announcing the Messiah. In this I rejoice.

- Why Messiah? Why not God, the Lord, or just Jesus?
- What was the 'issue' about Paul and Messiah Jesus in the early church?

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Moreover, I shall soon rejoice, ¹⁹ because I know that this will result in my release through your prayers and through the help which Messiah Jesus' Spirit gives me.

- What did Jesus say to his apostles about when they would have to give a defense before kings? Matt 10:15-20

²⁰ Anyway, this is what I expect and hope for. This is because I am never reticent, but with all boldness, as in the past so now, too, I will exalt Christ in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ After all, I live only to serve Christ, and when I die, he will reward me.

- Hendiadys: 'expect and hope'.

²² Thus, the life which I lead in my body allows me to do more productive work, yet which I should choose I do not know. ²³ I am torn betwixt the two: I would prefer to die and go be with Christ, which would be better for me, ²⁴ but for me to remain in my body would be better for you.

- Better: In what ways?

²⁵ This convinces me that I shall remain and continue helping you increase the joy which faith gives. ²⁶ As a result, you will boast more about Messiah Jesus because of me when I come again to you.

- What are some reasons for which we ought to reverse our illnesses?

Assignment

- Read the entire epistle this week.
- Study 1:27–2:4 at netbible.org
- Visit <http://philippians.site>
- Memorize one verse.

