

Phil. 1:12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,

1:13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

1:14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will:

1:16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;

1:17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

1:19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

1:20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

1:22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

1:23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

1:24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

1:25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

1:26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

[From today's sermon.

We are reading Paul's letter from prison.

He sees being held in prison as a positive thing. That is, it was communicated to the entire prison barracks that it was for Christ's sake that he was held in prison. This makes sense when we think of the events in the prison in Acts 16.

Secondly, with Paul's entry into the prison, a new conviction of faith was gained and missionary progress was made.

But another movement was the existence of those who “preached Christ out of envy and strife,”

and who “wished to add more tribulation to the sufferings of my imprisonment, not out of a pure heart, but out of party spirit. They took Paul's imprisonment as an opportunity to expand their own power. But even so, Paul said, it is enough if Christ is proclaimed.

However, Paul's suffering in prison, coupled with his uncertainty about the future, made him wish to be taken up to heaven. However, when he thought of the Philippian church, he felt the need to remain here on earth to serve and help them.

He said, “I will live and remain with you all, to advance your faith and to give you joy in it. I will come to you again. I hope that we too will gain the feelings and actions that are backed by the Lord's passionate love.

Good morning, everyone.

I have begun to feel a slight chill in the early morning air. I feel the change of seasons.

Today, we would like to learn from Philippians about Paul's suffering in prison, his prayers, and his love.

1:12 Now, brethren, what has happened to me, I would rather die than live. I want you to know that what has happened to me has become rather helpful for the advancement of the gospel.

What has happened to me. Paul is imprisoned for preaching the gospel, for proclaiming God's precious salvation through Jesus. The fact of his imprisonment may not seem like a good thing in itself, but Paul tells us that it has “rather” become useful for the advancement of the gospel.

Verse 17 says, “the sufferings of my imprisonment,” so I don't think Paul is simply saying that without suffering, “rather, this was a step forward. I think he had a lot of hard times in prison, surrounded by “the whole barracks” of soldiers. But I don't want everyone in the church to be sad or depressed about this. God has never forsaken me, and I am not in prison, punished and disgraced, but rather the gospel is moving forward because of what has happened to me. The gospel is moving forward. I think Paul is saying that by that I realize the meaning of the suffering I am now undergoing. Paul tells us to know that.

1:13 That is, it will become clear to the whole barracks and to all the rest that it is for Christ's sake that I am being held in prison,

How that advance of the gospel happened is that it became clear to the entire barracks, to the entire soldiers guarding the prison, and to all the others, that it was for Christ's sake that Paul was being held captive in prison.

We are reminded of the Lord's work and the salvation of the jailer, which began with the incident of Paul and Silas' prayer and praise in Acts 16. Captured in prison for Christ's sake. Caught in prison for Christ's sake. What does that mean? Christ Himself was also crucified because of envy and persecution for His good works, even though He had done nothing wrong. Does it mean that the more we live in Christ, the closer we are to His ways, the closer we are to prison? But God's power works for those who are in prison in Christ. Just as Christ was persecuted, crucified, died, and was buried in the tomb, but rose again on the third day, so those who are persecuted for believing in Christ, even though they are imprisoned, are not like other criminals, and God's work continues unceasingly in that prison, illuminating those who believe and are persecuted. God's work continues in prison, illuminating those who believe and are persecuted, and the work of preaching the gospel continues to advance unhindered.

1:14 And many of the brethren were convinced in the Lord by my going into prison, and they began to speak the word of God more and more boldly and without fear.

It is foolishness not to stop your work until you are in prison, for it is of no use to you if you are in prison. It is a disgrace to be in prison, and it is a hindrance to the evangelization of the gospel... But God's power works for those who are truly in Christ, who live and preach only in Christ. And from that incident of Paul's entry into prison, many of the brethren came to speak the word of God more and more courageously, without fear, having confidence in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 6:2 God saith, / "I have heard thy petitions in the time of grace, / and have saved thee in the day of salvation. Behold, now is the time of grace; behold, now is the day of salvation.

6:3 Let us not in any thing cause a man to stumble, lest this ministry bring reproach upon us,

6:4 Instead, we present ourselves to men as servants of God in all circumstances. 6:4 Instead, we present ourselves to others as God's servants in every case, in extreme patience, in tribulation, in crisis, and in stalemate,

6:5 In flogging, in prison, in tumult, in toil, in all night long, and in famine,

6:6 With truth, knowledge, forbearance, charity, the Holy Spirit, and love without hypocrisy,

6:7 By the word of truth, and by the power of God, and by the weapons of righteousness which he has on either side,

6:8 Whether praised or reviled, whether maligned or well-received, we present ourselves as servants of God. 6:9 We seem to deceive men, and yet we are truthful,

6:9 Though we seem to be unknown to men, yet we are known; though we seem to be dying, yet behold, we are alive; though we seem to be being chastised, yet we are not killed,

6:10 And though he seems to be sorrowful, yet he is ever glad; though he seems to be poor, yet he makes many rich; though he seems to have nothing, yet he has all things.

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? tribulation, or affliction, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

8:36 For it is written, "We are appointed unto thee all day long unto death, and to be looked upon as sheep that are slaughtered.

8:37 But in all these things we have more than enough, through Him who loved us.

8:38 I am convinced, because he has loved us, that in all these things we have more than enough to win. 8:38 For I am persuaded, that in all things there is neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, neither things mighty, nor things small, nor things great,

8:39 Neither high things nor deep things, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

While such joyous things were happening, there were also those who saw their opportunity and worked with evil intent because of Paul's entry into prison.

1:15 On the one hand there are those who preach Christ out of envy and strife, and on the other hand there are those who do so out of good will.

1:16 The latter know that I am set up to plead the gospel, and preach Christ out of love,

1:17 The former do not do so out of a pure heart, but out of partisanship, thinking to add more affliction to the sufferings of my entrance into prison; and the latter do so out of love, knowing that I am set up to preach the gospel, and preaching Christ out of a heart of love.

envy and competitiveness. We can see that there were those who usually did not think well of Paul's remarkable missionary work and looked at him with envy and competitiveness. They did not see Christ, but Paul.

There were those who saw Paul's imprisonment as a good opportunity, and during this time, there were those who acted as if it was a chance for them to stand out, a chance to make their

own group bigger, not out of a pure heart. Such people came to those whom Paul led with the love of Christ, and they approached him with a human heart, with envy, competition, and partisanship. But Paul was in prison and there was nothing he could do about it. How Paul must have suffered. Paul speaks of this as “thinking to add further affliction to the suffering of my entering into prison.

But then Paul thinks, “What then?”

1:18 What then? Whether from sight or from truth, in short, since it is Christ who is being preached, I rejoice and will rejoice in it.

But Paul, in the midst of the suffering of his imprisonment and further tribulation, even in the midst of his suffering, looks up to the Lord again. And he praises God, believing in His power that surpasses the works of man's filthy mind.

1:18 And what then? Whether from sight or from truth, in short, since it is Christ that is being preached, I rejoice and will rejoice in it.

1:19 For I know that by your prayers, and by the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, this thing shall at last become my salvation.

This thing shall at last become my salvation.”

These words carry heavy implications. Events that are unacceptable, dazzling, and out of my control. It is worrisome, painful, and the more we think about the future, the more depressed we feel. Things that go against your wishes are rampant, and even in the church, the purity of heart has been shattered, and the battle for power is being waged to see who is the best, based on envy, strife, and factionalism. Paul believed that “this will be my salvation at last,” through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit sent by Jesus, even though he was tempted to think, “I don't want this anymore.

1:20 Therefore I earnestly long for this, that I may not be ashamed in any thing, but rather that Christ may be glorified through me, whether I live or die, by speaking boldly, even now as always.

He says, “Then I will no longer be ashamed or afraid, but I will wait earnestly for the glorification of Christ in my body, in life and in death, by speaking boldly, as I have always done and as I do now. This, too, is a deep comfort to those of us who struggle in the midst of various difficulties.

If we go forward for Christ's sake, there is nothing for us to be ashamed of, nothing to fear, nothing to be afraid of, nothing to be afraid of, nothing to be afraid of, nothing to be afraid of, nothing to be afraid of, nothing to be afraid of, nothing to be afraid of. Paul tells us that the meaning of our life is to live so that we may be glorified, and that he does not care whether we live or die, or whether we are persecuted.

1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

1:22 But if it is a fruitful work for me to live in the flesh, I do not know which I should choose.

1:23 I am in a dilemma between these two things. My desire is to leave this world and be with Christ, which is actually much preferable.

He tells us that to be conformed to this likeness of Christ, to be brought near, to be lifted up into His presence, is the highest goal, and therefore to live is Christ, and to die is also of no greater benefit.

Paul's entry into prison and the Tribulation. He is shown the thoughts of various people, I want to be released from my burdens and go to be with Jesus already, "If I say what I want, it is to leave this world and be with Christ, and in fact, that is much more desirable," and he is caught between the boards, which is the

1:24 But it is more necessary for you that you remain in the body.

1:25 Being confident of this, I will live and remain with you all, that I may advance your faith and your joy.

1:26 Then I will come to you again, and you will increase your pride in Christ Jesus through me.

Here is Paul's true heart. Here is a ground that those who are driven by envy, strife, and partisanship will never understand. Paul was never proud of being exalted to the point of being envied. He did not look down his nose at people and consider himself more important than anyone else. He was not by nature an envious person. If we envy him, we should emulate this spirit of disregard, this determination to give up what is valuable for the sake of others without putting our own thoughts first if it is for the sake of those we are to lead. And this spirit is also found in Christ Jesus.

If we are to visit Paul's ministry with a combative or partisan spirit, we should know these

words of his once again before we do so.

1:24 But it is moreover necessary for you that you remain in the body.

1:25 Being thus convinced, I will live and remain with you all, that I may advance your faith and your joy.

1:26 Then I will come to you again, and you will increase your pride in Christ Jesus through me.

1:27 And I will abide in the flesh for your sake, and will abide with you, in the pains of prison, and in all manner of afflictions; and I will desire and help you to progress in the faith, and there shall be joy. I will come to you again. And I will serve and teach. And when you see me, when you see the image of Jesus Christ, you will be filled with pride, knowing that you are truly worthy to be in the world of life, love, and truth. That is what Paul is telling us.

We, too, desire to renew our hope to live in the love of Paul, and to find truth and pride in the way of Paul's life, which is to put our all in Christ, surrender and dedication, and to live in love.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. No matter how many difficulties we see before us, may you guide us to continue to believe that we are not in distress and that you will still accomplish something that will advance for us. Though we long to be free from suffering and to find comfort, we ask that you guide us this week in the life of love and practice that Paul dedicated to the Church and to Christ. Please guide all sufferers into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and our communities. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.