

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

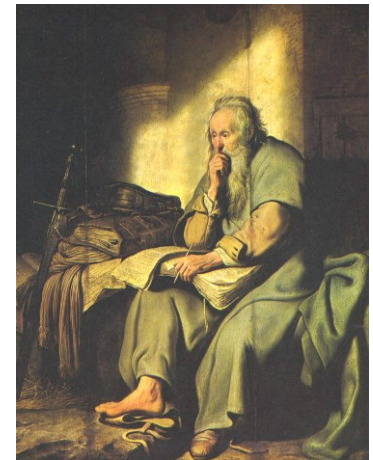
“Advancing the Gospel of Christ”

Philippians 1:12-30

Intro: The second part of chapter 1 details Paul’s **joy** over how his Roman imprisonment was resulting in the advance of the gospel of Christ in that members of Nero’s praetorian guard and household were being saved (vv. 12-13), many brethren were preaching Christ without fear (vv. 14-18); and his imprisonment would result in his acquittal for the further advance of the gospel (1:19-26). Paul concludes by exhorting the Philippian believers to employ **single-minded devotion** in their sharing of the gospel, and to strive together with him, if necessary, in his sufferings to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ (1:27-30).

I. Paul’s Imprisonment Resulted in the Advance of the Gospel of Christ 1:12-18

- A. The advance of the gospel among the whole praetorian guard (vv. 12-13)
- B. The advance of the gospel by emboldened brethren (v. 14)
- C. The advance of the gospel from various motives (vv. 15-18)
 - 1 Some preach Christ out of envy and strife (v. 15a)
 - 2 Some **preach Christ out of good will** (v. 15b)
 - 2’ The later **preach Christ out of love** (v. 16)
 - 1’ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition (v. 17)
- D. The advance of the gospel causes Paul to rejoice (1:18)



Paul in Roman Confinement

II. Paul’s Imprisonment Viewed as Only Temporary 1:19-26

- A. Paul advances the gospel in life or death (1:19-20)
- B. Paul’s acquittal would result in the further advance of the gospel (1:21-26)

III. Paul’s Prescription for Advancing the Gospel of Christ: *Single-Minded Devotion* 1:27-30

- A. Paul calls for unity—“one spirit with one mind” = **the unified mind** (1:27)
- B. Paul calls for courage in the face of persecution (1:28)
- C. Paul calls for suffering, if necessary, for the advance of the gospel of Christ (1:29-30)

Applications:

1. Our commission as believers is to grow to love and to share Jesus Christ = *gospel—good news*.
2. Let us **strive together**—“*tug of war*”—in one spirit with one mind to promote unity in our service!
3. It has been granted to us, not only to believe in Christ, but if necessary, to suffer for Him.

Memory verse: “For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” *Philippians 1:21*