

Acts 9:16 **For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”**

Acts 20:22–23 And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock *I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Christ is Building His church

Philippians 1:1-16

The Report

The Reaction

The Rejoicing

*The Report*

Philippians 1:12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,

Acts 20:17- 28:31

Advance (prokopē): to change one’s state for the better by advancing and making progress

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [\*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains\*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 154). United Bible Societies.

**Paul’s only concern was the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Acts 20:24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Philippians 3:7–11 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him,

not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—<sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Rubbish (skybalon): dung; excrement; manure

Paul did not consider his life to be his own

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

The advancement of the gospel came through Paul's imprisonment

Are we letting the gospel advance though our circumstances? (Explain what the gospel is in its fullness; evangelism and living it out)

Hebrews 10:32–35 But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, <sup>33</sup> sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. <sup>34</sup> For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. <sup>35</sup> Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

*The Reaction*

Philippians 1:13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

2 Timothy 2:8–9 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!

Luke 21:10–19 Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. <sup>11</sup> There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. <sup>12</sup> But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. <sup>13</sup> This will be your opportunity to bear witness.

<sup>14</sup> Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup> You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. <sup>17</sup> You will be hated by all for my name's sake. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> By your endurance you will gain your lives.

Philippians 1:14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Bold (tolmaō): to be so bold as to challenge or defy possible danger or opposition—‘to dare’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [\*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains\*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 306). United Bible Societies.

Philippians 1:15–17 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. <sup>16</sup> The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

The advancement of the message, not the advancement of Paul, is the source of Paul's joy.

Hansen, G. W. (2009). [\*The Letter to the Philippians\*](#) (p. 75). William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

### *The Rejoicing*

Philippians 1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

Paul's focus on Christ made him an expert at reframing his experience so that the negative became a positive.

Hansen, G. W. (2009). [\*The Letter to the Philippians\*](#) (p. 68). William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Habakkuk 3:17–19 Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, <sup>18</sup>yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. <sup>19</sup>GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

The servant and saint of Christ Jesus is to be preoccupied with the building of Christ's kingdom in their everyday lives.

Those who choose to build their own kingdom may succeed in this world, but their kingdom will lay in ashes at the feet of Jesus when He returns.