

Philippians

Living through difficult times

Philippians (1:12-26)

The Apostle Paul's lived through difficult times

Difficulty No 1:

- Paul finds himself in the slammer.
- In a Turkish prison.
- Perhaps in Ephesus.

Difficulty No 2:

- Paul's antagonists are inciting trouble.
- Other Christians who disagreed with him.
- They challenged his leadership.
- Paul's response? "Go for it, as long as Christ is preached!"

Read carefully through Philippians 1:12-18 (NLT).

Results of Paul's difficult circumstances?

- He relished the opportunity of sharing the Good News with the Roman guards - **v:13**.
- He was permanently chained to a Roman guard for about 2 years. [Guards changed every 6 hours]
($365 \times 2 \times 6 = 2920$)
- Therefore, Paul saw them as 2,920 occasions to share Jesus with the guards!
- **What a great ministry Paul had in prison.**
- **He would never have had a hope of sharing Christ with so many guards.**
- Paul blossomed, in spite of the difficulties of being chained to a guard 24x7 for 2 years!

Paul's instructions to the young Timothy

2 Tim 3:1-5.

Paul's Charge to Timothy

2 Tim 3:10-12.

Paul's attitude – Rejoicing - 1:18b-26

- **So I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.**
- **Paul's lived for Christ, and Christ alone.**
- **I fully expect and hope** (for what? **Read v:20**)

1. In light of his expectations - **18b-21.**

- ☞ It is refreshing to note Paul's positive, faith-filled outlook when facing difficult.
- ☞ His main objective is to exalt Christ - **1:20-21.**

2. He could see what problems can NOT do to him.

☞ **Romans 8:38-39**

- ☞ Regardless of what the future holds for him:
 - He is looking forward to a productive ministry - **1:22-23**
 - Especially to the Philippians - **1:24-26**

Read Our Daily Bread article:

Move your fence – Friday 17/Sept/2021

- ☞ God may give fresh perspective for our life challenges too—if we look for it.
- ☞ That was the prophet Isaiah's message to the downtrodden people of Israel.
- ☞ Instead of looking back with longing at their red sea rescue, they needed to shift their sight, seeing god doing new miracles, blazing new paths.
- ☞ "Do not dwell on the past," he urged them.
- ☞ "See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:18-19).
- ☞ He is our source of hope during doubts and battles.

☞ “I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland”—providing “drink to my people, my chosen . . . people” (vv. 20–21).

Refreshed with new vision:

1. We too can see God’s fresh direction in our lives.
2. May we look with new ways to see his new paths.
3. Then, with courage, may we step onto new ground, bravely following him.

Pastor Charles Lazaro

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