

Text Outline Philippians 1:12-30

- I.** ¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.
- A.** ¹³ As a result,
- 1.** it has become clear
 - a) throughout the whole palace guard*
 - b) and to everyone else*
 - 2.** that I am in chains for Christ.
- B.** ¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters
- 1.** have become confident in the Lord
 - 2.** and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.
- II.** ¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ
- A.** out of envy and rivalry,
- B.** but others out of goodwill.
- C.** ¹⁶ The latter do so
- 1.** out of love,
 - 2.** knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.
- D.** ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition,
- 1.** not sincerely,
 - 2.** supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.
- E.** ¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that
- 1.** in every way,
 - a) whether from false motives*
 - b) or true,*
 - 2.** Christ is preached.
- F.** And because of this I rejoice.
- III.** Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,
- A.** ¹⁹ for I know that
- 1.** through your prayers
 - 2.** and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ
- B.** what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.
- 1.** ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed,
 - 2.** but will have sufficient courage
 - 3.** so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body,
 - a) whether by life*
 - b) or by death.*
 - 4.** ²¹ For to me,

- a) *to live is Christ*
- b) *and to die is gain.*

5. ²² **If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me.**

6. **Yet what shall I choose?**

- a) *I do not know!*
- b) ²³ *I am torn between the two:*

(1) I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

(2) ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

7. ²⁵ **Convinced of this, I know that**

- a) *I will remain,*
- b) *and I will continue with all of you for*

(1) your progress

(2) and joy in the faith,

(3) ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

IV. ²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

A. Then, whether I

1. **come and see you**

2. **or only hear about you in my absence,**

B. I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit,^[a]

1. **striving together as one for the faith of the gospel**

2. ²⁸ **without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.**

3. **This is a sign to them**

a) *that they will be destroyed,*

b) *but that you will be saved—and that by God.*

4. ²⁹ **For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ**

a) *not only to believe in him,*

b) *but also to suffer for him,*

c) ³⁰ *since you are going through the same struggle*

(1) you saw I had,

(2) and now hear that I still have.

Conceptual Outline

- I. Paul's imprisonment has served to advance the gospel**
 - A. Palace guard & everyone else knew that Paul is in chain for Christ**
 - B. Believers become confident in the Lord and proclaim the gospel**
- II. Motives of people proclaiming the gospel**
 - A. Envy & rivalry**
 - 1. selfish ambition, insincere**
 - 2. stir up trouble for Paul**
 - B. goodwill**
 - 1. love**
 - 2. knowing that Paul's imprisonment was to defend the gospel**
 - C. Paul's response**
 - 1. regardless of motives, Christ is preached**
 - 2. rejoice**
- III. Paul's aim**
 - A. Confident in prayers of the Philippians & in God**
 - B. Life or death, Paul will be delivered**
 - 1. Christ will be exalted in his body**
 - 2. to live is Christ to die is gain**
 - C. Facing uncertainty**
 - 1. Dilemma between life or death**
 - 2. Better to be with Christ**
 - 3. Alive for the believers**
 - D. Certain of being alive for the saints' progress**
- IV. Exhortation to conduct lives worthy of the gospel**

Theme: Paul's aim is to exalt Christ in life or death. He rejoices in chains, in attack, & in danger of death.

Questions:**I. Please complete the following sentence for**

- A. an average American your age:
To live is _____ to die is _____.
- B. you:
To live is _____ to die is _____.
- C. Looking back at the last 5 yr of your life, what do you think your goal in life was?

II. After thanking God for the Philippians' partnership in the gospel and praying that their love may grow, Paul turns to share with the Philippians about his present situation. In it, he shared with them about his goal & purpose in life.

- A. Read 1:12-14
- B. What does Paul want the Philippians to know? What has happened to him? (II Cor 11:24-26 is a good summary. see Acts 21:27-Acts 28 for details.) Now, Paul is under house arrest in Rome (Acts 28:30-31)

- That what had happened to Paul have served to advance the gospel.
- He was captured in Jerusalem. There was a conspiracy to kill him. He was beaten unjustly. He was on trial many times & sent to Rome. They were shipwrecked & landed in the island of Malta. Then, he was under house arrest for 2 yr.

C. Imagine what is like for an active person like Paul to be under house arrest. Have you ever been immobilized or without freedom? How can these events serve to advance the gospel? What 2 evidences Paul cites to prove his point?

- The whole palace guard & everyone (possibly including Caesar's family) knew that he was in chains for Christ.
- Other believers are more confident in the Lord and more daring to proclaim the gospel.

D. v. 14 says that believers became more confident in the Lord & without fear? Where do their confidence & courage come from?

- Seeing Paul's example of fearlessness.
- Despite difficulties, God saw Paul through all his troubles & worked out his purpose in Paul's life.
- The gospel advanced instead of being hindered.

III. vs. 12-14 talks about Paul's loss of freedom.

- A. Let's read vs. 15-19 to see how else was he attacked.
- B. Paul describes two groups of believers. Who are they & how are they similar & how do they differ?

Friends	Foes
Believers	Believers
Preached Christ	Preached Christ
Goodwill	Envy
Motivated by love	Rivalry
Know that Paul was in chains for the gospel	Motivated out of selfish ambition
True motives	Insincere
	Stir up trouble for Paul while in chains
	False motives

C. What is the intention of the rivals? Why would Christians attack other Christians? What is the likely outcome of such conflicts? If you encounter such attacks, how would you respond? How did Paul handle his attackers? What are his reasons for rejoicing?

- Their intent is to hurt Paul.
- Selfish, impure motives
- Split, lack of unity, stumble people from seeing God through us, etc.
- Paul rejoiced
- Christ is preached. God is in control. He'll be Paul's deliverance through the saints' prayers.

D. Whether physically in chains or emotionally attacked of his reputation & success, Paul rejoiced. What does it reflect about his goal in life?

Christ is preached.

IV. We've seen Paul's responses to loss of freedom and to personal attacks. The next few verse will talk about another one of his attacks.

A. Read vs. 19-26

B. In this portion, what attack does Paul talk about? In this entire study, Paul listed a number of things he knows for sure & some with good certainty & some unknowns. Can we list them? What is his major unknown? If you were him, how might you handle this unknown? How does he handle it?

Know	Do Not Know
v. 12 - What happened	v.22 - choose between life & death
v. 15 - put in jail for defense of the gospel	
v.19 - deliverance through prayers & God's provision	
v. 20 - no way be ashamed & have courage	
v. 25 - will remain, will continue for you	
v. 27 - (will know) you will stand firm	

He seems to handle is uncertainty with what's certain - the unknown with the known. His confidence in what God can & will do helps him overcome his unknown.

C. In "choosing" to live or die, Paul makes another contrast between the living & dying? List them. By declaring "to live is Christ and to die is gain", what do you think Paul is saying? How can it be better to die? What is Paul's goal & purpose in life? How does his aim help him handle the chains, the attacks, & death?

Live	Die
v. 22 - fruitful labor	v. 23 - desire
v. 24 - necessary for you	v. 23 - be with Christ
v. 25 - your progress	v. 23 - better by far
v. 25 - your joy in the faith	
v. 25 - your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound	

- He's not suicidal. Rather, Christ is his all in all. To live his focus is Christ. He represents Christ. Christ rules in his live. Christ is his Master. The die if to be with Christ for eternity & he'll be gaining Christ's Presence & his inheritance in Christ. Therefore, death is better for a believer. Yet, the choice is not ours. His purpose is that Christ be exalted (v. 20.) No matter what, Christ is the focus. As long as Christ is exalted, Paul's OK.

V. Having spelled out his aim in life, Paul challenges the Philippians to conduct themselves "in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."

A. What does that manner look like? What are some of the verbs he uses in this entire passage related to how we should handle the gospel?

- v. 27 - stand firm in one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.
- v. 28 - not frightened by opposition
- v. 15-18 - preach the gospel with pure motives
- Paul's own example of preaching & upholding the gospel without fear & with joy & contentment, as well as his focus on the good of other believers.
- verbs: advance (12), proclaim without fear (14), defense (16), preach (17, 18)

B. v. 27 asks us "to stand firm in one Spirit striving together as one for the faith of the gospel." Are we to do that with the rivals with mixed motives? How can that be done?

- Yes, even with rivals, in the Spirit of God. As long as the truth of the gospel is genuine, we stand even with those who might have impure motives. It can only be done, when we don't look at ourselves. Instead, our focus in Christ & His purpose.

C. Whatever the circumstance, what would help the Philippians to stand firm?

- v. 27 striving together as one
- v. 28 recognizing the ultimate destiny of those who oppose

- v. 28 recognizing God will save us, (for Paul, not Caesar.)
- v. 29 It is a grant that we suffer on behalf of Christ
- v. 29 other believers (Paul) have the same struggle & are standing firm

VI. Having seen Paul's example, how would you complete this statement for you:

For to me to live is _____ to die is _____.

Write down a goal for the next 12 month to put this aim into your daily life.