

# My Testimony: **Joy Despite Trials**

Philippians 1:12-18 • October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

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## Context

Paul founded the first church in Europe at Philippi ca \_\_\_\_ A.D., Acts 16:9-12.

About 9 years later, Paul was imprisoned for preaching the Good News.

Church in Philippi sent Epaphroditus (traveling ~1,000 mi.) with a love gift to Paul.

Epaphroditus almost \_\_\_\_\_. In response, Paul writes this letter

- Our identity: Christ's bondservant, free from slavery to sin
- Our affections: invested in our faith community
- Our expectation: God will complete salvation in our community
- Our focus: \_\_\_\_\_ for others to abound in love, not just for self

## 1. Rejoice despite circumstances, vv. 12-14. How did Paul do this?

- Paul looked from an \_\_\_\_\_ perspective, vv. 12
- Paul heart was hitched to God's \_\_\_\_\_, not his comfort, v. 12
- Paul listed reasons for joy: nonbelievers are aware, believers are encouraged, vv. 13-14

## 2. Rejoice despite rivalry, vv. 15-17

- The full Gospel preached > the motivation why it's preached, vv. 12

## 3. Rejoice because Christ is preached, v. 18

### Reflecting upon and applying God's Word, email rev@me.com for prayer, questions, etc.

- A When bad things happen, who or what can help me see the eternal perspective?
- B When I am sad/angry/critical, I will list reasons for joy (I will preach to my heart) so that my heart is increasingly hitched to Christ's cause, and decreasingly to my comfort.
- C I feel like I'm in "shackles", please pray for me.
- D I will pray daily for a specific person's salvation
- E I have questions about Jesus / I'm interested in becoming a Christian