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PRISON LETTERS

- Philippians
- Philemon
- Colossians
- Ephesians

JOY IN THE MISSION

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy..."

Philippians 1: 3-4



1. Look for ways that God can use your "chains" to advance the Gospel

"Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel."

"As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ."

"And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear."

 Look for ways that God can use your "chains" to advance the Gospel

What are you "chained" to?

2. Focus on God's deliverance "in" your circumstances, rather than "from" your circumstances

"...for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance."

Philippians 1: 19

"I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death."

Philippians 1: 20

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!"

"I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body." Philippians 1: 23-24

"Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me." Philippians 1: 25-26

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel."

Philippians 1: 27

Philippians 1: 19

Deliverance = Salvation
Past
Present
Future

2. Focus on God's deliverance "in" your circumstances, rather than "from" your circumstances

What needs to change in your life?

3. Define your life

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Philippians 1: 21

"For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances."

Philippians 4: 11-13

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." Philippians 4: 11-13

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4: 11-13