

Philippians 1:12-26 New Living Translation

Paul's Joy That Christ Is Preached

12 And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters,^[a] that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. **13** For everyone here, including the whole palace guard,^[b] knows that I am in chains because of Christ.

14 And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers^[c] here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message^[d] without fear.

15 It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. **16** They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. **17** Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. **18** But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice. **19** For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.

Paul's Life for Christ

20 For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. **21** For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. **22** But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. **23** I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. **24** But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

25 Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. **26** And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

Footnotes:

- a. 1:12 Greek *brothers*.
- b. 1:13 Greek including all the Praetorium.
- c. 1:14a Greek brothers in the Lord.
- d. 1:14b Some manuscripts read *speak the message*.

Questions:

1. What has been the result Paul's time in prison in verses 12-14?

What is the "Good News"?

2. Who can you share the "Good News" with?
3. What did Paul expect for his life in verse 20?
4. Explain how your life can bring honor to Christ.
5. Why did Paul want to die? Why did he want to live?

Can you identify with this struggle? Why or why not?