

#### Verse 12

- This section is common in ancient letter writing where the author would give an update on their current situation
- Even though Paul is in jail, their partnership is still on and what has happened has not impeded on the spread of the gospel, but has actually advanced it
- \*\*Paul's focus is on the spread of the gospel and not his personal experience

#### Verse 13

- The palace guard were an elite group of Roman soldiers who served as Caesar's bodyguards
- Even Caesar's bodyguards could not intimidate Paul from stopping sharing the gospel. Everybody knew that his imprisonment was because of his identification with Christ.
- Paul's imprisonment could have been viewed as something negative. As a signal to the end of his career. As a restriction of the gifted apostle. \*\*Instead of viewing his chains as something negative, he viewed his chains as evidence of his relationship with Christ.

#### Verse 14

- It is likely that Paul was imprisoned around 60 AD, which put this letter in the reign of Nero. Nero persecuted Christians and blamed the fire of Rome in 64 AD on Christians. It is therefore likely that Christians had become more afraid to preach the gospel during this time.
- Because of Paul's imprisonment and him using his imprisonment to advance the gospel, other Christians are encouraged to be more bold in their faith and proclaim the gospel without fear

Summary of 12-14: The furtherance of the gospel is everything to Paul and everything is viewed as means by God to advance the gospel.

#### Verse 15

- The "some" mentioned are from "most the brothers," mentioned in the previous verse.
- Both those preaching from "envy and rivalry," and from "good will," "preach Christ."
- Envy and rivalry are condemned throughout the Bible (cf. Gal 5:20-21; Rom 1:28-29; 1 Tim 6 3-4; Tit 3:3; 3:9-11).
- Envy and rivalry cause personal enmity, which would destroy unity. Seeking unity is one of Paul's reasons for writing Philippians.

#### Verse 16

- Those who proclaim Christ "out of love," were seeking to serve Paul and fill in the gap left by his imprisonment.
- These preachers knew that Paul's imprisonment was a result of divine appointment for the purpose of defending the gospel in his trial.

#### Verse 17

- In contrast to those preaching from goodwill, the envious preachers are preaching for selfish ambition and to afflict Paul while in prison.
- It is unclear what kind of trouble they caused for Paul. The Greek word used for "trouble" could mean emotional or physical trouble. Did they want to cause emotional anguish as they flaunted their freedom in contrast to his imprisonment? Or did Paul's rivals hope their preaching might actually cause him to receive harsher treatment?
- It is likely those who envied Paul did so because of the nature of the situation. Paul did not establish the church in Rome and was flourishing before he got there. They likely envied him because his effective preaching won a bigger crowd than they had. With Paul imprisoned, they now had the

opportunity to gain a bigger following than Paul and take the centre stage and outshine Paul. Their ability to preach outside of prison and Paul's inability to preach in prison would cause Paul great pain.

Verse 18

-Paul essentially replies to these false preachers by saying, "So what?". For Paul the importance was Christ being preached.

-What was intended to cause Paul pain actually caused him to rejoice in the fact that Christ was preached.

Summary of 15-18: Similar to 12-14, Paul's focus is on the advancement of the gospel. As long as Christ is preached Paul will rejoice.

Function of 1:12-18 in Philippians as a whole:

In 1:12-18 Paul achieves a number of objectives. First, he gives the Philippians an update on his current situation and assures them that they are still partners in the gospel. Even though Paul is imprisoned, the gospel is still advancing. Secondly, Paul highlights similarities between his own struggles and that of the Philippians. Paul shows that he is suffering for the gospel and calls the Philippians to do the same in 1:27-2:18. In the church in Philippi, there was also a lack of unity (See 2:3, 14; 4:2). In 1:15-18 Paul himself models seeking unity and teaches the church how to focus on the proclamation of Christ with pure motives. Finally, Paul gives examples from his life for the church in Philippi to model. Paul holds up his life as an example throughout the book (1:12-18 and 3:4-11) and in 3:17 he explicitly tells them to imitate him (3:17). 1:12-18, therefore fits into Paul's use of his personal example to edify the church in Philippi. What on the surface is a brief update on his situation actually plays an important role in the unfolding of the book of Philippians as a whole.