

TOWARD A RADICAL UNITY

TRU-14 "To Advance The Gospel"

09/20/2026

PHIL 1:12-18 "I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the GOSPEL, 13) so that it has become known throughout the whole Imperial Guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for CHRIST."

14) And most of the brothers, having become confident in the LORD by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the WORD without fear.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18 are a great illustration of the contrast between a heart toward "Unity" and one toward "Division." Paul's admonitions for the Philipians Believers to pursue and embrace unity are not correction for the lack of such. He is encouraging them, giving them the basis for this unity, and presenting the benefits of operating in a spirit of unity. He is, however, aware of some issues that are detracting from this unity, and some individuals that are attempting divide the Believers.

PAUL'S SITUATION IN ROME

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➤ I want you to know... – NOT about giving them an update... Paul is making a specific point: "I want you to get this!"

It is important that we always keep the proper perspective...

Opposition to the Gospel is a "given" ... that doesn't determine our purpose or success... Witnessing to the Gospel does not always bring "immediate" success: We Sow / Water / Harvest [1 COR 3:6]

➤ What has happened... – For over "4 years" Paul has been in prisons [JERUSALEM – CAESAREA – ROME] – but it has not kept him from his mission... From **ACTS 21:23** until **28:31** his arrests, imprisonments, sufferings were not a discouragement but actually an inspiration... Paul didn't limit his testimony to only those things which we "exciting and positive" - He told of the struggles and the sufferings "victoriously" **2 COR 11:23-29; 1 THESS 2:2; COL 4:3, 18; 2 TIM 2:8-10; PHM 9, 13**

- To advance the Gospel... – "Prokope" – to go ahead / like a "point-man" making a way for others... -Paul's "advance" into the Imperial ranks while in prison was a step into the heart of the Roman rule... Opening a path that would change their Culture
- Known throughout the whole Praetorium Guard – a force of ~6,000 elite Roman soldiers assigned to protect the Emperor and all Government officials... they were often involved in the "transitions" of Imperial rule... sometimes even to removing the Emperor
- "Throughout the whole" – this has spread within these ranks so that it has "affected" many throughout the realm... "Soldier to Soldier" **PHIL 4:22** "All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household."
- My imprisonment is FOR CHRIST... – It was known [Phaneros – made openly manifest] – People knew exactly why Paul was imprisoned...
- It was "FOR CHRIST" – "because of..." – as a result of his obedience to a power above earthly rule – could be accused of "Treason" **ACTS 20:22** "I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the Gospel of the Grace of God"

THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSE

One of the clearest measures of a Believers spiritual maturity is what it takes to rob him of his JOY. Paul's maturity is evident as he makes it clear that difficult, unpleasant, painful, even life-threatening circumstances did not rob him of joy ... but rather caused it to increase.

1:14) And most of the brothers, having become confident in the LORD by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the WORD without fear.

- Having become confident... – the idea of trust that leads to action ... Paul's trust in Christ was "infectious" – they could stand-forth too!
- Much more bold... – "tolmao" – courageous / daring – Like Paul and the soldiers to whom he was chained they would also be ready / willing to "enter the battle..."
- Without fear... – "Aphobos" – a fear that overcomes – crippling... Fearlessly – Power [Dunamis] to be my Witnesses [Martus]"