

Philippians

(3) Contagious Courage

Phil 1:19-24

19 for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. 20 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. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. NIV

Paul's joy was not dependent on circumstances...1:12-18

How did Paul evaluate his being in prison? 1:12 see Acts 11:18-21; Rom.8:28

He understood that his imprisonment was a tool to advance the Gospel of Christ.

What was clear to everyone? 1:13 What had been the result? 1:14 see Jn.16:33; IICor.6:1-10

Everyone knew Paul was in chains for Christ. Many believers were encouraged to preach.

What had Paul observed about the preaching? 1:15 Lu.9:49-50

Some had good motives but some was out of envy (of Paul) and rivalry (of Paul).

What was Paul's evaluation of the good-motive preaching? 1:16 IITim.1:8-12

They were doing it out of love, understanding why Paul was preaching. Good motive!

And what of the others? Was Paul angry/troubled by their phony motives? 1:17-18; Jonah 4:1-9

Their intent was to trouble Paul, but it didn't matter to him. Christ was being preached!

What personal application do you take away from this passage?

Paul's philosophy of life, and death...1:19-26

What was the reason Paul continued to rejoice? 1:18b-19 IPet.1:7-9

He was confident that by prayers and the Holy Spirit, his deliverance was sure.

Looking toward the trial before Caesar, what were his two hopes? 1:20, 14 Ps.25:2; IPet.4:16

That he would not be ashamed (of Christ or himself); that he would have courage.

What are some things of which he was not ashamed? Rom.1:16; IITim.1:8, 12; IPet.4:16

He was not ashamed of the Gospel, of the Lord, of suffering as/because of being a believer

What was the concern that he had that required personal courage? 1:20b Acts 20:24

That he would have the courage to choose death for Christ, if that's what He required.

What personal application do you take away from this passage?

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