

New Hebron Missionary Baptist Church

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Pastor Rodney E. Smith, Sr. Bible Study

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
(Ps. 119:105)

Study of Philippians, "The Epistle of Joy" [pt.4]

{Philippians 1:12-17}

- **v.12)** But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;
- v.13) So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;
- **v.14)** And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
- v.15) Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:
- v.16) The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:
- v.17) But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

v.12)

- The Philippian Christians were distressed by the apostle's imprisonment and wondered what was going to happen to the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But Paul's imprisonment did not hinder spreading the message of salvation.
- God sovereignly used the vehicle of Paul's imprisonment and created new opportunities for His word to be spread.
- The next time you endure difficulties in your life look for ways that God can still get the glory from it. [Jonah 1:3,4,12,17, 2:10]

v.13)

So that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else. [NASB]

- Paul refers to his imprisonment as his "bonds in Christ" which means he is fully aware that his suffering is because of his allegiance to the Lord. Are we willing to suffer for serving Jesus as Paul did? [Acts 5:41; Mk. 8:34; Matt. 10:37,38]
- Paul was chained to a Roman soldier twenty-four hours a day. The shifts changed every four to six hours, which meant Paul could did not have the benefit of comfort or privacy.
- Are we willing to cast aside or convenience to serve the Lord? [Jn. 16:33]

v.14)

• God is demonstrating through Paul that He is faithful to watch over His children through persecution. Because at one time God had to watch over His children from Paul (*Saul*) himself. [Acts 9:1-6]

v.15-17)

- "envy and strife" these were not heretics, like those in Corinth; neither were they Judaizes, like in Galatia. But they were preachers who, out of jealousy and spite took advantage of Paul's imprisonment to draw attention to themselves.
- "The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely" they do not have pure motives or intentions. Their real aim is to produce difficulty and to stir up strife. They are full of ambition and have no real regard for the welfare of the church. [Jn. 10:12,13; Matt. 7:15]
- "the other of love" through a sincere desire, not only to make known the way of salvation to God's people, but also to vindicate and encourage Paul in his time of need.

 [In. 21:15-17]

Notes: