



jesUS: God's Love Compels US

How A Prison of Pain Can Also Be A Pulpit to Proclaim Jesus

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SERIES TEXT: This is how we know what love is: JesUS Christ laid down his life for US. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 1 John 3:16 NIV

SERIES BIG IDEA: God's love compels US. Since God so loved US, we also ought to love one another.

HOW A PRISON OF PAIN CAN ALSO BE A PULPIT TO PROCLAIM JESUS

"Everything happening to me in this jail only serves to make Christ more accurately known, regardless of whether I live or die. They didn't shut me up; THEY GAVE ME A PULPIT!" - St. Paul, Philippians 1:20 MSG

I. ACKNOWLEDGE THE CHAINS, ADVANCE THE GOSPEL

Philippians 1:12-30 NIV:

- 12) Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that *what has happened to me* has really served to ADVANCE THE GOSPEL.
- 13) As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I AM IN CHAINS FOR CHRIST.
- 14) BECAUSE OF MY CHAINS, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

II. WHEN CONFRONTED WITH OPPOSITION, REMEMBER WHAT MATTERS MOST:

HELPING PEOPLE FIND AND FOLLOW JESUS

- 15) It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.
- 16) The latter do so in love, know that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.
- 17) The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.
- 18a) But *what does it matter?* THE IMPORTANT THING IS that in every way, whether from false motives or true, CHRIST IS PREACHED. And because of this I rejoice

III. CONTINUE TO REJOICE IN THE LORD

- 18b) Yes, and I WILL CONTINUE TO REJOICE,
- 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.
- 25) Convinced of this, I know that *I will remain and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,*
- 26) so that through my being with you again *your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow* on account of me

IV. WHATEVER HAPPENS, DON'T FACE IT ALONE; ***FAITH IT WITH GOD***

27) WHATEVER HAPPENS, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, *contending* as one man FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL

28) *without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.* This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved – and that BY GOD.

29) For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to *believe on him*, but also to *suffer for him*,

30) since *you are going through the same struggle* you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

SALVATION PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, I repent of my sin. Please be my Savior and Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

