

PHILIPPIANS CLASS II

Class II: 1:12-26: The Text and Questions to Ponder

12. Now I want you to know brothers, 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.

---What does Paul say has happened here?

---Why does Paul *want* people to know this?

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.

---How does this work?

---What would cause fear in speaking the Word?

---Why would they have more courage?

15. It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

---How does one preach Christ out of envy or rivalry?

---How out of good will?

---There are two groups here. Which one would each of us most likely fit into?

16. The latter do so in love, knowing 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.

---What are the two hearts here?

---Why do you think those two hearts existed?

---Are they both preaching Christ?

---Why stir up trouble for Paul?

18. 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.

---Why was Paul not angry? Or was he?

---How could he rejoice?

---What makes that possible in his mindset?

The Concept of the Mirror

Paul had learned how to handle the *mirrors* in his life.

Trials/darkness---mirror---Window/light

How do you respond to your mirrors?

Do you see God's vision for you or do you get angry, rebel against the mirror and go back to the dark world?

18c. 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.

---What deliverance do you think he spoke of?

---Could it be a deliverance of vindication?

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.

---What did Paul in his heart want?

---What would cause Paul to be ashamed?

---How can Christ be exalted in our bodies?

---Is that what we want in our hearts?

21. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

---What does it mean “to live is Christ?”

---How is dying gain?

---Do you really think Paul meant this? How do you know?

---Is this our attitude?

---How could we gain that type of heart in all areas of our lives?

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.

---What was Paul wrestling with?

---Who was he concerned about most?

---Is this our heart?

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.

---Is Paul looking out for his best or theirs?

---Do we look out for our brother’s and sister’s best?

---Do we do what we do here for the progress and joy of other’s faith?

---How would you know if you do this or not?

---Does your mirror show you anything about this?

26. “So that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me” OR perhaps a better translation, “So that your boasting (pride or grounds for glorying) may abound (or overflow) in Christ Jesus through my ministry when I return to you” (Silva, p. 76).

---Does Paul have any confidence displayed here?

---What is it?

---Do we have confidence in Christ that our presence with other Christians causes joy in them?

---What blocks are there in your confidence to be this? What does your mirror show you?

What is your Mirror Trying to Say to You?

Trials in finances

Trials in marriage or with children

Trials in friendships

Trials in old habits (drinking, smoking, cursing, immorality, impurity, envy, etc).

Trials are a mirror to help you and I see ourselves so we can see the window and envision what we can become.

Will you respond to the mirror and go to the window?