

EMBOLDENED FOR SERVICE

October 1, 2017

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,¹³ so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;¹⁴ and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will:¹⁶ The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;¹⁷ but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice. For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.²² But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.²³ For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

Philippians 1:12-26 (NKJV)

PAUL'S LIFE WAS ABOUT MAKING CHRIST KNOWN UNDER EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE

ALL THAT GOES ON IN MY LIFE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVING GOD

I WANT TO LIVE EMBOLDENED TO SERVE AND BEAR FRUIT

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel. Philippians 1:12 (NKJV)

PAUL HAD A LIFE CONSTITUTION WHICH CAME FROM CHRIST

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

1. I WILL LIVE WITH INTENSE ANTICIPATION AND HOPE

Verse 20a "according to my earnest expectation and hope"

2. I WILL LIVE ABOVE REPROACH

Verse 20b "that in nothing I shall be ashamed"

3. I WANT CHRIST TO BE MAGNIFIED IN ALL I DO—MY LIFE IS NOT ABOUT ME, BUT ABOUT JESUS (Galatians 2:20)

Verse 20c "but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body"

4. I WILL ALWAYS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE TIMES OF MY LIFE ARE IN GOD'S HANDS

Verse 20d "whether by life or by death.²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

5. I WILL KEEP ON WHEREVER I AM WHICH WILL MEAN MORE FRUIT

Verse 22 "But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor"

6. THE LOVE OF CHRIST WILL BE THE COMPELLING INFLUENCE OF MY LIFE

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died.

2 Corinthians 5:14 (NKJV)

7. I WILL LEARN TO BE CONTENT

I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.

Philippians 4:11b (NKJV)

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."⁶ So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NKJV)