

Remnant Life Church  
February 20, 2022  
**The Church of the Philippians**  
Part 7  
**Looking Forward in Confidence**  
Phil 1:18b-19

REVIEW

Paul is the target of jealousy from several itinerant preachers

- What is an itinerant preacher?
  - Those were, in biblical times, men who did not minister to a single group but traveled from place to place preaching
  - Today we would call them evangelists
- These were men who were, in fact, preaching Jesus Christ
  - But their hearts were at odds with their testimony
  - Paul was known, filled with the Holy Spirit, and in demand
- But Paul puts it all in perspective with four words – what does it matter?

This morning we look at just one verse (with the tale end of the previous verse thrown in) to see that Paul is not only demonstrating how to act as a follower of Jesus Christ in difficult situations, but he is looking ahead – confident that God will release him from his troubles.

**Read – Phil 1:18b-19**

In the 19<sup>th</sup> verse, Paul is completing a thorough assessment of his situation

- We must keep in mind that the setting for all that Paul is saying is within a Roman prison
  - This is a very important piece of contextual information
  - His words of encouragement to persevere would not carry the same weight if he were writing them from inside a cottage along the shores of a picturesque coastal Mediterranean village

- His circumstances and environment are anything but comfortable and idyllic
- And so, in the 12<sup>th</sup> verse he references his past – *Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.*
  - The circumstances leading to his imprisonment were not justly based
  - He and Silas, as recorded in Acts 16, had cast a demon out of a little girl
  - For their troubles, they were beaten, put in chains, and thrown in prison
- Then in the 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> verses he speaks of his present circumstances
  - The soldiers and other prisoners are hearing the Gospel and lives are being changed
  - Why, because of how Paul is behaving while there – not living in fear or anxiety but singing praises to God
  - But there are also those who do not like Paul who are preaching Jesus but also using their pulpits to besmirch and slander Paul out of jealousy
  - They were not only attacking him they were very likely making things up about him

Billy Graham had one of the most spotless reputations of our time and a great number of books & articles have been written about his life and ministry. He was greatly respected, but despite that there were some reporters who eagerly looked for anything they could find that might discredit him. They looked into his finances, into his marriage, into every facet of his life, but they were continually unable to find much that they could exploit.

But Graham was not only a man of integrity, he was also wise. For example, when he went out on crusades, Dr. Graham would send people ahead to check out his hotel accommodations to make sure no woman had been planted there so that tabloid photographers could take his picture with her and spread malicious gossip.

He was very cautious to make sure that there wasn't any room for suspicion or, as the Bible calls it in 1 Thess 5, the appearance of evil. But in spite of the precautions, during a crusade in Paris, France, a tabloid headline was printed proclaiming, "Billy Graham spends night with a woman other than his wife." And for their proof, they claimed that the hotel registry showed that a woman was registered and spent the night with him in his hotel room. They even printed her name, "Beverly Shea."

Now most of you who remember the Billy Graham Crusades know that his Dr. Graham's best friend and featured soloist was George Beverly Shea. And in their effort to discredit Billy Graham, the tabloids made up something that was easily disproved and exposed their intentions.

- Then, here in the 19<sup>th</sup> verse, Paul speaks of his future
  - What must be noted here is Paul's certainty
  - He is not unsure or lacking in conviction
  - He is not speaking words that are only intended to present a strong front for the sake of the readers
  - No, there is an absolute conviction that is evident by the words Paul uses
  - He is speaking them in faith
    - What is faith?
    - First, it is not wishing, hoping, and dreaming
  - Paul gives us the proper definition in **Hebrews 11:1**
    - *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*
    - Assurance (also read as evidence) – a proof by which another thing is tested or proved
    - It is absolute conviction
  
- Now the primary word of importance in Paul's statement is the word *deliverance*
  - This word can also be read as *salvation*

- By using this word, Paul presents three possible meanings as read in the original language *so-tay-REE-ah*
- There are three possible meanings in this word although not all in the same measure of certainty
  - The first is safety which means he is certain of his deliverance from prison; this is least likely of the three since he later says in verse 20 that he is not certain whether he will live or die
    - Remember that in the prisons of Rome, no one was safe or had the assurance of release until that moment was at hand
  - The second possible meaning is his salvation in heaven
    - Paul would then be saying that what he has done and is continuing to do in prison has an impact on eternity
    - While this is certainly true, it again seems that there must be more to it than that
  - The third possible meaning is one that encompasses both of the above meanings and broadens it into a lesson for us today
    - This is the assurance of knowing God through His Son Jesus Christ and the knowledge that because of that your eternity is secure in Him
    - And BECAUSE you know that, you live a life that is free of the worry or fear generated by the outcome of events in your life

In whatever way the definition best applies, it is Paul's confidence in God that stands out and must be a reminder for us to never lose hope

- Paul says, I know!
  - In the original language the word is *Aay-doh*
  - It translates not in the sense of knowledge only, but of the assurance – the evidence – of what he believes

I recently read the following synopsis of this time for Paul in prison:

- From where did Paul's faith arise?
  - He was able to trace the events that led up to his being in captivity.
  - He had responded to the call of God to go to Macedonia
  - He had been certain that, despite the dangers, he had to go to Jerusalem.
  - Time and time again he had provided for him the evidence he needed that God was with him.
  - His appeal to Caesar was again from God.
  - Now in prison he is convinced that his ministry is not over.
  - Not only does he take the opportunity to witness to all the Praetorian Guard – he is also convinced he still has a future ministry.

So again, through these first 19 verses of the first chapter of Philippians we see Paul as a living witness and testimony to what it means to live a life given to Jesus Christ. Not just in words but in actions. Not just in actions, but when times are difficult. Not just in difficult times, but when it seems hopeless

Do you have that kind of faith today?

- If not, what excuses are you living on that prevent you from changing your worldly thinking and thinking instead with the mind of Christ?
- Now...are you ready to cast those things off and begin living every day as a follower of Jesus Christ
- Not alone, but in the Hand of God and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- That is the only way you will be able to be an encourager in the midst of the storm; the only way you will be able to say what does it matter/so what
- And the only way you can look toward the future with a faith that is unshakable