
SUNDAY WORSHIP GUIDE
PHILIPPIANS 1:12-21

Fueled by Grace
Philippians 1:12-21

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ¹⁵Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. ¹⁶The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain

Paul's Life was a testimony of God's grace at work:

- Grace – unmerited favor
 - Grace is not easy to understand
 - Matthew 20:12 – But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity? So the last will be first, and first last.”
- Paul was saved by grace
 - Ephesians 2:8-9 – For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God, not a results of works, so that no one may boast
- Paul was sustained by grace in his ministry
 - Ephesians 3:1-2 – For this reason I Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, on behalf of you Gentiles – assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you
- Paul was sustained by grace in his trials
 - 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 – Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me

Paul's testimony of God's grace:

A. Grace fuels Paul's vision of God

- vv. 12-13 – I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ
- vv. 20-21 – As it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain

- Paul declares that he wants everyone to know that Christ is more precious, more satisfying and more valuable than all that life on this earth has to offer

B. Grace sustains Paul's joy in God

- vv. 18-19 – What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance

“Philippians draws attention to various challenges to joy, such as prison, opponents, grumbling, and disunity. Paul rejoices in the Lord *always, even though* he sits in prison, maligned by his enemies, hearing reports of sin and strife among his friends. His joy is not anchored in circumstances but in his Savior, who will never disappoint him and who will surely deliver him. Therefore, Christian joy is the great pleasure and happiness that we feel — whether or not the sun is shining, whether or not our team is winning, whether or not we are healthy or hurting — because our redeemer lives, because we belong to him, and because he is making all things new.” – Brian Tabb

- Romans 5:8-11 – but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation
- Is grace fueling your vision of God? Is grace fueling your joy in God?

“I have now to ask, whether you can consent to part with your daughter early next spring, to see her no more in this world; whether you can consent to her departure, and her subjection to the hardships and sufferings of a missionary life; whether you can consent to her exposure to the dangers of the ocean; to the fatal influence of the southern climate of India; to every kind of want and distress; to degradation, insult, persecution, and perhaps a violent death. Can you consent to all this, for the sake of him who left his heavenly home, and died for her and for you; for the sake of perishing, immortal souls; for the sake of Zion, and the glory of God? Can you consent to all this, in hope of soon meeting your daughter in the world of glory, with the crown of righteousness, brightened with the acclamations of praise which shall redound to her Saviour from heathens saved, through her means, from eternal woe and despair.” – Adoniram Judson

Live It Out:

- In what areas of your life do you need to be reminded that God's grace is sufficient for you?
- What other joys might God be removing during this season of your life so that we can learn to lean on him more and more?
- How can we encourage one another to fix our eyes on Jesus and His grace during this season of our lives?