

1
I Am In Chains for Christ
Phil 1:13
Pastor C.E. Bowden

Text: Phil. 1:13 “As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.”

Intro: Luke writes of Philippi in *Acts 16:12* “From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.” The designation “a Roman colony”, meant that its government was responsible only to the emperor of Rome. Gold was discovered in the mountains around the city, and they still are in function today. It had a famous school of medicine with graduates throughout the then-known world.

—**Paul writes to encourage this Church.**

—Into a world much like ours, Christianity burst on the scene.

—There was little faith in God, in goodness, in immortality.

—“What is truth?” was the despairing question of the age.

—The gospel flashed upon this scene of moral confusion, a revelation from heaven.

—This letter is a powerful example to us, that we do not change culture by attacking it, we change it through the power of the Gospel of Jesus and prayer.

—**Paul’s prayer for the Church**

— He prays first—*Phil. 1:9* “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.”

—Love is a fruit of the Spirit (*Gal. 5:22*); love is the key that allows all the spiritual virtues to properly function (*1Cor. 13:1-3*).

—Love recognizes principles from the Word of God as illuminated by the Holy Spirit.

—Such spiritual knowledge enables believers to love what God commands.

—Paul also prays for “depth of insight” (v. 9); the word “knowledge” (v. 9) means a growing knowledge, a full and complete knowledge.

I Am In Chains for Christ
Phil 1:13
Pastor C.E. Bowden

—From the Word of God we gain an ability to instinctively do what is right and to shrink from things that are wrong.

—Such knowledge cannot exist without love—John writes *1 John 4:7* “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”

—With love there comes a spiritual sense, spiritual sight, spiritual hearing, a sense of the beauty of holiness.

—Some things are clearly good, and others clearly bad; in some things the lines are not as clearly drawn—*Phil. 1:10* “so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.”

—Sometimes the question is not whether something is good or bad, but is it helpful—*1 Cor. 10:23* “Everything is permissible” — but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible” — but not everything is constructive.”

—Living in an amoral world we need to be able to discern things not clearly listed as sin, but they are not helpful in spiritual growth.

—*Phil. 1:11* “filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God.”

—*V. 11* brings us full circle back to *v. 9*, and the “fruit of righteousness” is equated to the “fruit of the Spirit” (*Gal. 5:22*).

—Love is the key, we cannot realize this fruit without Jesus—“the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ”.

—*The advantage of Paul’s chains.*

—*Phil. 1:13* “As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.”

—Paul’s chains are an outward guise, the truth is “*I am in chains for Christ.*”

—Paul would never admit he was a prisoner of Rome—*Philemon 1:9* “I then, as Paul — *an old man* and now also *a prisoner of Christ Jesus* —”

3
I Am In Chains for Christ
Phil 1:13
Pastor C.E. Bowden

—Paul has introduced himself as “servant” (*Phil. 1:1*) which is a highly sanitized translation of the word that means “slave”; he is not his own and he owns nothings, his existence is in Christ alone.

—He also calls himself “an old man” (*Philemon 1:9*) we do not know how old, certainly his body is very worn.

—His chains “really served to advance the gospel.” (*Philip. 1:12*)

—He has preached to the elite of Rome “the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.” (*Philip. 1:13*)

—The Gospel would have spread of these men who guarded Paul, he was in their chains, but they were a captive audience.

—Others are emboldened by Paul’s chains—*Phil. 1:14* “Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.”

—The devil tried to shut him up and shut him down and the Gospel spreads even further.

—Many preaching but not the same motive.

—Two groups “some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry,” (*Philip. 1:15*); “others out of goodwill.” (*Philip. 1:15*)

—Some preach because of “love” (*v. 16*); others preach “out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.” (*Philip. 1:17*).

—The only thing that matters to Paul “The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached.” (*Philip. 1:18*)

—*Philip. 1:21* “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

—He knows he faces certain death, that would be gain for him, but for him to live would be better for the Church—*Philip. 1:22–24* “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! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.”

I Am In Chains for Christ
Phil 1:13
Pastor C.E. Bowden

—Paul has written this because the Church is facing persecution, he seeks to encourage them—**Phil. 1:28** “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.”

—They present state of persecution is a gift—**Philip. 1:29** “For it has been **granted** to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him,”

—The word “**granted**” in Greek is χαρίζομαι charizomai which means to bestow in kindness, grant as a free favor.

—The answer to the mind set of the Church undergoing persecution is **Philip. 2:1–2** “If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.”

I Am In Chains for Christ
Phil 1:13
Pastor C.E. Bowden

6
I Am In Chains for Christ
Phil 1:13
Pastor C.E. Bowden
