

Overcoming Disappointments

Paul's attitude toward his imprisonment, life and death
Philippians 1:12-26

Introduction

- For us, sometimes, things do not go as we would like them to happen in our lives
- Disappointments come regarding family, church, health, finances and more
- How shall we overcome these difficulties?
- How do they affect our faith and the faith of others?
- Do we continue serving God or abandon Him?

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Introduction

- The Philippians wanted to know about Paul's attitude toward his imprisonment and possible execution and his life
- Because of his commitment to Christ, Paul exhibits an attitude of rejoicing in spite of these trying circumstances
- Often, our commitment to the Lord is weak or it is conditional on whether things go as we desire or not

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Introduction

- We are not responsible for what happens to us but we are responsible for how we react to these things
- Paul did not become depressed or pity himself but rejoiced and was thankful to the Lord that all was working for good
- He encouraged the Philippians to remain committed to the Lord in trials, being thankful and rejoicing for all good to God's glory

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Paul's joyful and unselfish attitude about his imprisonment

Php 1:12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,

Php 1:13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,

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Paul's joyful and unselfish attitude about his imprisonment

Php 1:14 and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

Php 1:15 Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will;

Php 1:16 the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;

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Paul's joyful and unselfish attitude about his imprisonment

Php 1:17 the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.

Php 1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

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Before this, Paul had endured many trials for Christ's sake

2Co 11:22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.

2Co 11:23 Are they servants of Christ?--I speak as if insane--I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

2Co 11:24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

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Before this, Paul had endured many trials for Christ's sake

2Co 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

2Co 11:26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

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Before this, Paul had endured many trials for Christ's sake

2Co 11:27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

2Co 11:28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.

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God was bringing good out of Paul's imprisonment

- Through God's providence, Paul's imprisonment had produced progress for the gospel to spread
- People heard and obeyed the gospel who would not have heard unless he was a prisoner
- People preached the gospel who would not have preached unless Paul had set the example of preaching while imprisoned

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God was bringing good out of Paul's imprisonment

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Rom 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

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God was bringing good out of Paul's imprisonment

Rom 8:30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Php 4:22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

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God was bringing good out of Paul's imprisonment

Eph 6:18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

Eph 6:19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

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God was bringing good out of Paul's imprisonment

Eph 6:20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

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Paul's primary goal in life or death was exalting Christ

Php 1:19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Php 1:20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

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Paul's primary goal in life or death was exalting Christ

Php 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Php 1:22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.

Php 1:23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

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Paul's primary goal in life or death was exalting Christ

Php 1:24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

Php 1:25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith,

Php 1:26 so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

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Paul's primary goal in life or death was exalting Christ

- His greatest desire was to exalt Christ in his life and his death
- For Paul, living was Christ and dying was gain, death was better than life
- If he lived, he would serve Christ and others but if he died, he would be with Christ
- Our primary purpose in life determines our greatest desires and efforts

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Paul's primary goal in life or death was exalting Christ

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and 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 up for me.

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Being with Christ for eternity is better than living here

2Co 5:1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2Co 5:2 For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

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Being with Christ for eternity is better than living here

2Ti 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

2Ti 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

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Living here means serving Christ as a servant to others

Mat 20:25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them.

Mat 20:26 "It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,

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Living here means serving Christ as a servant to others

Mat 20:27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;

Mat 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

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Overcoming Disappointments

1. Paul's joyful and unselfish attitude about his imprisonment Php 1:12-18
2. Paul's primary goal in life or death was exalting Christ Php 1:19-26