

PHILIPPIANS

Joy

CHOOSE TO CHOOSE IT



Background

- ❑ **Written by Paul while in prison**
- ❑ **Had vision of a Macedonian man begging for him to come**
- ❑ **Letter has a lot to do with being Christlike**
- ❑ **Encouragement to live with Christ in us**
- ❑ **That is joy**

Punchline

**The best choice is to choose Jesus, and to choose
Jesus is to choose joy**



I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1: 3-6 NIV

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1: 7-8 NIV

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1: 9-11 NIV

Philippians 1: 3-11

- ❑ Paul takes joy in the partnership in the gospel with the church in Philippi
- ❑ Confident in God continuing a good work in them
- ❑ Prays they would grow in love and understanding
- ❑ Paul takes joy in partnership in the gospel

Partnership



Joy In Partnership

- ❑ We're all in this together
- ❑ Praying for others is partnership
- ❑ We grow individually, but we can support and encourage each other
- ❑ We're not alone in growing in the love and understanding of Christ

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters,[b] that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

Philippians 1: 12-14 NIV



It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

Philippians 1: 15-16 NIV

The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

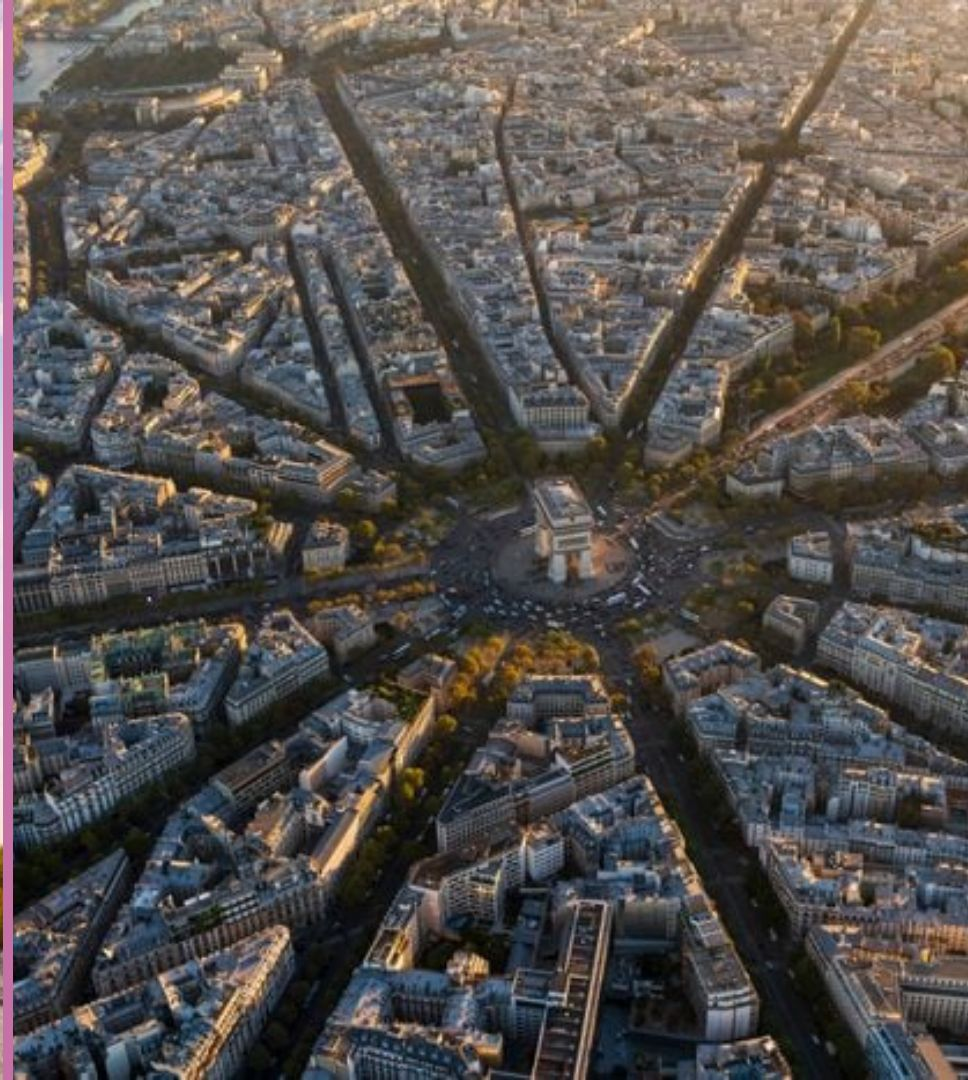
Philippians 1: 17-18a NIV

Philippians 1: 12-18a

- ❑ **Gospel is being preached in his present circumstances**
- ❑ **The whole palace guard has heard the gospel**
- ❑ **Being preached by believers because of Paul's faith in his situation**

Philippians 1: 12-18a

- ❑ **Some preached out of envy and rivalry**
- ❑ **Others preached out of love with right motives**
- ❑ **Paul takes joy that Christ is preached and that is bigger than his situation**





Joy In Christ Being Preached

- ❑ Look at the bigger picture and resize the image in our lives
- ❑ Look at Christ being preached in your present circumstances
 - ❑ Words, actions, responses

Joy In Christ Being Preached

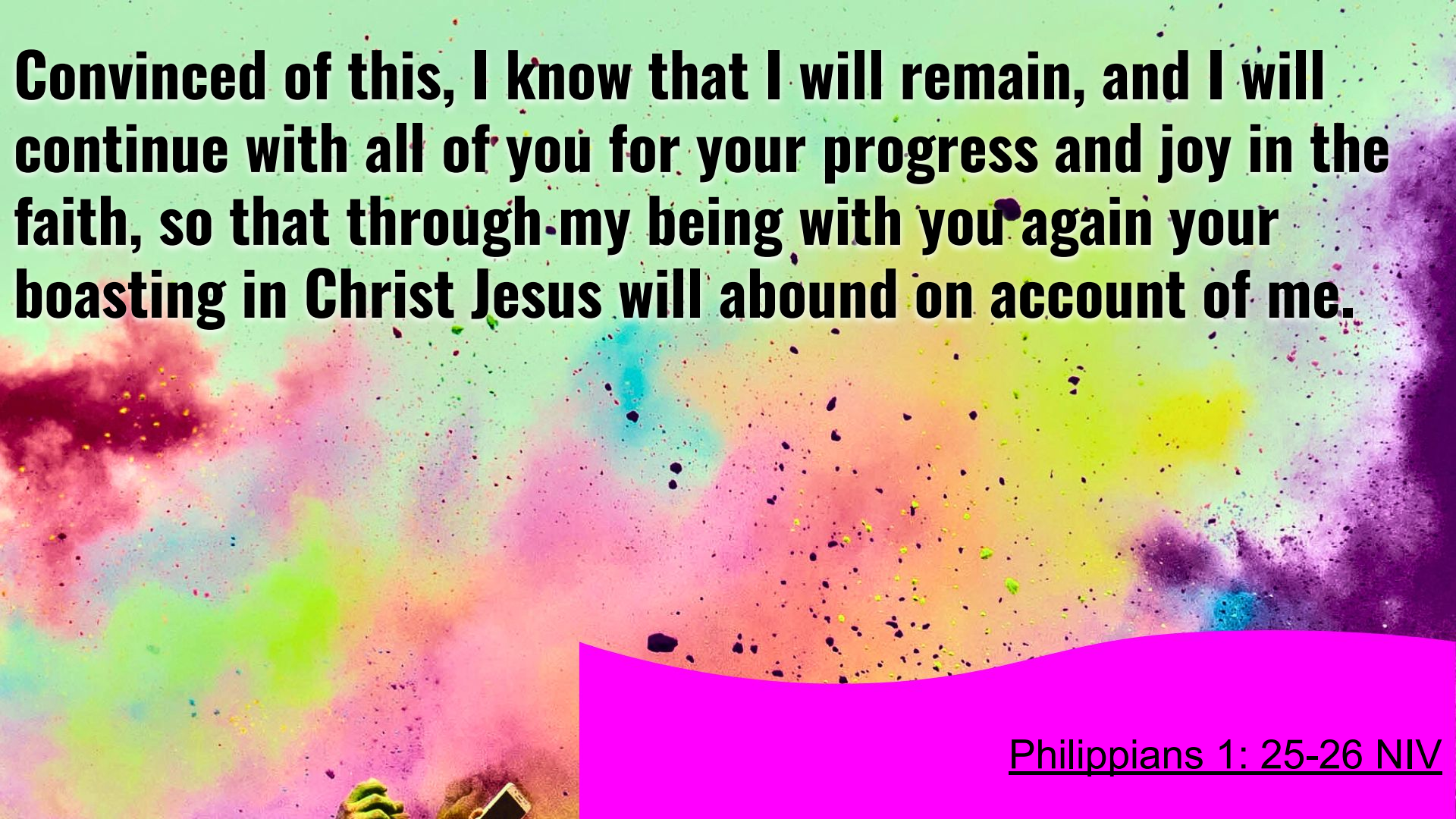
- ❑ Don't be discouraged by resistance to living like Christ
- ❑ Resize how you see others preaching Jesus
 - ❑ Are they preaching Christ truthfully
- ❑ Take joy in preaching Jesus and seeing and hearing Him being preached by others

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians 1: 18b-20 NIV

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 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.

Philippians 1: 21-24 NIV



Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Philippians 1: 25-26 NIV

Philippians 1: 18b-26

- ❑ Paul takes joy in what's to come
- ❑ He will be delivered
- ❑ To live is Christ
- ❑ To keep spreading the gospel message
- ❑ To die is gain :
 - ❑ Finally being with Jesus
- ❑ Paul takes joy that this all to come

What's To Come



Joy In What's To Come

- ❑ **Almost always some uncertainty about what's to come in our lives**
- ❑ **Be with Jesus or live like Jesus, but it's all about Jesus**
- ❑ **Live is Christ - in us and through us**

Joy In What's To Come

- ❑ In a super uncertain world we have a certain Savior
- ❑ There is joy in what's to come because what's to come is Jesus

Wrap Up

- ❑ **Being a follower of Jesus means we can always choose joy**
- ❑ **Joy that we're in a partnership**
- ❑ **Joy that Christ is being preached**
- ❑ **Joy in what's to come**
- ❑ **Choose Jesus and you'll choose joy**

Audio file

[Philippians 1 Audio.mp3](#)

Transcript

We've all had books that we have read right. Some will deem the best for different reasons. Some like, you know the tearjerkers, some like the nonfiction learning about people. I read a book by a Blogger. The book was called, I'm sorry, love your husband. And it was a book about, like, learning about being a husband and a parent. And he's going through all these things he's learned. It was funny, but also really good. About like trying to figure out your wife's perspective and as a mom and a wife, that was really fun. I like fiction as well. I've read, I think, almost all of John Grisham's books, big fan of him. So in general, I'm a fiction guy, but read some nonfiction as well. I bring that up because we're going to start a short four week series in how one of the books of the Bible, naturally, which is where we are, and it'll be the book of Philippians. And this is probably. One of my favorites in the Bible, probably the one I think I shared last week that I've read the most, so I want to give a little back. Ground on the book before we dive in, we'll do a chapter a week as we do this kind of as an overview, but Philippians was written by the apostle Paul, who wrote most of our New Testament. Many agree or most agree it was written while he was a prisoner in Rome. He was clearly in prison. The predominant views that while he was in Rome. Now throughout Paul's time. He made a couple of trips to this church. Philip I was a respected city in Macedonia. It was a Roman colony. They took their Roman patriotism very seriously. So it was heavy on kind of the Roman culture. There were no Jewish synagogues at the time. But Paul went because he had a vision of a Macedonian man begging him to come and preach there. So he and others went. He preaches the first Christian convert. There was a woman. And the church kind of starts to form now, in part, he wrote this letter because the Philippian church sent a gift to Paul while he was in prison, a financial gift. It was delivered by a man named Epaphroditus. And on the trip, he gets very, very ill and we can hear about some of this, this story in Acts 16. But he gets very ill. But Paul writes. Back and sends the letter back with Aphrodite, just to be like, hey, he's doing OK, but he also wants to send some. Urgent. And this letter has a lot to do with how Paul has lived his life and will continue to do so in being as Christ like as possible. And he encourages the church to do the same, to live as Christ would have us live and know that Christ is in US. And to me the word I get with that is. That's to live with joy. Joy that we have, Christ, Joy that

Christ will fulfill his promises and joy that we have hope in Christ in all circumstances. Just that joy that Christ lives in us. So we choose to choose that joy by choosing Jesus. The theme of this whole series is joy choose to choose that we choose to take on. Joy. So today what I kind of want you to think about overarching as we go through this whole thing is the best choice is to choose Jesus and to choose Jesus is to choose joy. We have joy when we choose Jesus. So we're going to look at Philippians one today and kind of see what Paul has to say. During this letter. So it'll be up on the screen behind me it is marked. In the Bibles on your tables, if you want to use phones, tablets, computers, anything, I will be in the NIV translation. Feel free to use whatever you would like to follow along. We're going to start in Philippians one versus 3 through 11. It says this. I thank my God every time I. Remember you in all my prayers for all of you. I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you. Since I have you in my heart and whether I'm in chains or defending and confirming the gospel. All of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you, with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my. There that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God will stop there. So Paul prays with joy for all the people he's writing to, and it's because of their partnership in the Gospel, right? So he uses where partnership, basically a close fellowship or a partnership in something, and that is the advancement of the gospel. So they're all working together. They're partnering in advancing the gospel. And Paul is saying he is confident. Of God continuing the good work he started in them, think of work here not as a job but as a purpose. So God isn't doing a job through them or through us. God has a purpose, and that's what we're doing is working with a purpose and God. Paul is confident that he'll keep working on that and doing that until Christ comes back. And the purpose is molding them. Into the image of Christ, making them more Christ like that's an ongoing process that never totally finishes until Jesus comes back. And Paul takes joy that they're doing this and he has them in his heart. He has that true love of Christ for them that runs so deep. He even says God can testify to how strongly I feel about them calling God. In essence, as a witness here is a huge deal. This is something people wouldn't do. So he's like, that's how serious this is. That's how much I care that we're all in this. The other. And part of this love has to come from the fact that the Philippian church to keep working through the gospel was not all super safe, right? Paul is literally in prison. He's riled up some of the wrong people, could be seen as a threat to Roman culture and society. So the people that are following Paul and sharing a gospel are potentially in danger as well. So Paul admires and takes joy. In that partnership that they share. And they pray. These he

actually outlines the prayer here that they would grow in love and understanding. And I really like that Paul doesn't separate love and knowledge here. He brings them together, right. Sometimes we separate what's in our hearts from what we learn in our minds. What Paul says, they come together because the more we grow in the knowledge of God, the more we should embody his love. So what we learn should come out in our actions through our hearts and he prays so that they'll be able to discern what is best and what is obedient to God to do what is best, not just avoid doing what's wrong, but really do what is best for God. And this type of obedience and behavior. Is showing love to God, not the feeling, not the emotion, but actually being the love of God. And Paul takes so much joy. The fact that the Philippians are partnering with them to think about partnership and the importance of a partnership and doing things together, who the Super Bowl was last weekend, who watched the halftime show? OK, good usher. Right was the main thing. The halftime show. You can throw up this next slide, Becky. OK, so we usher in the middle. But he didn't do it alone. Right. You always bring people out. So he's got Alicia Keys and little John and he's got Ludacris. And my favorite part. All the dudes on roller skates. Right. Like, I love that part. I told Ryan. I'm like, you can find me. That jacket, the blue and black. One I'd wear it while preaching, he said. I'd have to do it on roller skates. As well, I don't know how that would go for us here, but we could try it. I would do it, but they partnered together for this performance, right? It wasn't just one he brought people out and that's they always do with these big ones. There is a partnership, right? So it's like if Paul is the usher and the Philippians, everybody else with the rest of the people in the partnership, we have joy and partnership in the gospel. We're all part of this together being a follower of Jesus is not a solo act. We partner in this in a big way is through prayer and conversation with each other. Prayer Paul is praying for these people. We should be in prayer for each other, for other believers and for partners in the faith. Prayer for other people is partnership. So pray for each other, just like Paul, that we would grow in love and knowledge. We all grow individually, but we can support and encourage each other in our growth. Talk to each other about it, challenge each other on it. Don't be afraid to talk about it as we learn about God and who he is and grow in love, which is how we act, right? So that knowledge of God. Should affect our actions. We should be changing and acting. Like God would want us to. So when we learn about God right, it comes in through our head and gets down into our hearts. And that should come out in our actions. So these two work together. So pray for each other. Talk to each other about it. It's not easy. Growth is almost always hard. But the cool thing is we're not alone, right? It can be really lonely trying to make improvements or changes for the better in your life. It can feel very isolating and lonely. But we're not isolated or alone in growing in the knowledge and love of Christ. We're all partners in that, and we can take joy. In so join partnership in the Gospel and what it's doing in our lab. Let's keep going. So this will be Philippians 112 through 18. It says this. Now I want you to know,

brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it became clear throughout the whole Palace Guard and to everyone else that I'm in chains for Christ because of my chains. Most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more. To proclaim the gospel without fear. It's true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I'm put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ at a selfish ambition, not sincerely supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I'm in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this, I rejoice, we will stop there. So, Paul writes, I want you to know something. He needs to make sure they understand what's going on. He's in prison. They may have been told things were going poorly for him, or he's been moved around or something. So he's like, hey. I'm doing OK and he says the gospel is being preached because of my present circumstances like, huh, like, bro, you're in Roman prison. Like, that's you're clearing up like you're in prison. But the grass was being preached. How does this work? And it's cool that he does it this way. He says. The Gospels being advanced, he doesn't mention his own. Mood his own condition. There's no selfish, there's no pity party like. Oh, my gosh. I'm in. I'm in chains or hey, look how awesome I'm doing. He's basically saying his defeat being in chains is actually victory because the gospel is advanced. Well, how? Because it says the whole Palace Guard has heard about it, and this is the Pretorian guard, which was, from what I understand, the elite of the elite, the Roman Guard, 1 commentator described it as if you take our Secret Service and Navy seals and merge them together. That's kind of the level of this guard. So these are some big deal people. How are they hearing about it? And the fact is it's because Paul didn't shut up about the gospel. He didn't. He kept talking about it. These big deal, well paid, highly respected soldiers. He just like, I'm going to tell him that we don't know what their response is. It doesn't say whether they thought he was crazy. He was off his rocker. He's been in prison. Or if they bought into it. But the fact is they heard it. And that's what Paul is taking joy. He's like it's being advanced cause people are hearing it. It's like it's also being advanced because other believers are sharing it because of Paul's faith in his situation. They see Paul being faithful and strong in Christ, and that emboldens them to be faithful and strong in Christ, not in. All but in Christ because of his circumstances, and this can be any believer. Paul's like this is all the brothers and sisters, not just the well educated or the trained. But everybody can do this. And it took boldness because again, they don't know if they're gonna get arrested like Paul, but they did it right. They had that level of confidence. I can speak up here. Confidently. What I'm saying, I'm not gonna probably get arrested for giving the sermon. At least I hope not. But they could. So they still talk with that level of confidence, Paul says others preached out of envy and rivalry to Paul. Now, we're not totally sure why somebody's envious of Paul, who's a Roman

prisoner. It might have been his level of influence. How many followers he had. So they taught well, but didn't have pure motives. Now they're doctrinally sound or orthodox. But basically we're mean and selfish. Wrong, right? Message, wrong motive. But they preached it but didn't let what was in their heads coming out of their mouths permeate down to their hearts and affect the way they live. Others did it with the right motives, preached out of love with those good, clean motives. The love of Christ, and just wanting to others to come and know him. Paul actually says he's good with either one. He's like, hey. If they want to come at me or do it out of envy and rivalry, at least they're preaching true. Christ. That's what matters to him. They're not. He's not condoning what they're doing or why they're doing it. He's like, hey, people are hearing about Christ and that's what's important. Paul takes Joy in the fact that Christ is being preached, and that's bigger than his own situation. He, in essence, is zooming. Out back you can throw up this first slide here, OK. On the left here this is an image of the arc de triumph in Paris, and this is a monument honoring those that fought and died in France during the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars. We hear it is all zoomed out. So what's around it is the streets make this like bicycle spoke so you can see it there, but you. Zoom out and there it is from a bigger view. The next one, Becky. So this is the view of Central Park in New York. This is the one I feel like we see on TV and movies, where you're like all close up and. You see the trees and then there you are all zoomed out. Both of the places are awesome, but they take on a different feel when you zoom out and look bigger when you resize the picture, and I think that's what we need to do is resize our picture, sometimes look at the bigger picture, resize our image and look for Christ to be preached no matter what. Now when we resize the image. We are not diminishing ourselves or saying that we're irrelevant, right? The park and the monument are still awesome, but it's recognizing they're part of something even bigger and honestly, something awesome. And for us, that's the spreading and sharing of the gospel. So start by looking at your present circumstances. How can Christ? He preached and don't think about Christ being preached like what I'm doing up here, right? Don't think you need to go out and give a nice three-point sermon to everyone you encounter. You can, but you don't have to. That's not really the point. How can you show being Christ like in your current circumstances with your words? Who can you talk to about Jesus? This person, when it comes to sharing and talking about Jesus, I'm a big believer in doing that through relationship, right? The people you know and you've contact with. Or through your actions act like Jesus did. Many of us came up in the WWJD bracelet era, right? What would Jesus do? What would you do in your actions? Then how you respond? What happens when things don't go your way or something unexpected? How do you respond? Do you respond as? Right. And none of this means ignoring your situation, but is resizing it to see the bigger picture of Christ being preached. That's what Paul does here, and take into account you may face resistance with it. Paul is literally in jail. His readers could have been jailed or

killed for sharing Jesus. Now we don't face that same level of resistance, but it doesn't mean you won't experience some. With your words, actions or responses, so don't be discouraged by resistance to living like Christ. We can be respectful and loving to people if they show resistance and still live Christ like lives. And then resize how you look at others who preach Jesus and this one gets tricky, I think. But look what people are saying. Listen to it. And is Christ being preached? That's the question or the issue that Paul is looking at. Here he goes so as to say he's unconcerned with the motive of the preacher. He's looking at the what, not the why. And I know if I take a step back and look at myself, I tend to sometimes look at the. Right. Are they preaching to increase the following to get more social media likes to build a following to have a massive church? What are they doing? Are they trying to be funny or controversial? They just trying to be better than everybody else. Paul reshapes that and resizes that. That's what I'm supposed to do. And we're supposed to do. Are they preaching Christ, truthfully. If they hire them, Paul's like. Least Christ is being preached. It's not about their motives if they're pure and about Jesus. If they're not, that's up to God. God will handle that part. God can redeem the words and use the words, even if the motives aren't great. So take joy in the message of Jesus being preached cause people need to hear it. Take joy and preaching the message of Jesus yourself and take joy in hearing and seeing others do it as well. So resize the image in your life to see that as the picture, the joy of Christ being preached. Last section, it's the end of verse 18 through 26. It says this, yes and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now is always. Christ will be exalted in my body. Whether by the life or death, for to me to live, as Christ did die as gay. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yeah. What should I choose? I don't know. I'm torn between the two. I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far. But it's more necessary for you that I remain in. The body, convinced of this. I know that I will remain and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy and the faith, so that through my being with you again, your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. All right, so Paul is looking at what's happening in his life. He actually he takes joy in what's to come and that's he will be delivered. There's a little difference of opinion on what this deliverance means. Some will say it's like practical, that he's gonna be delivered and freed from prison. Some would say it's more spiritual when he's fully free from sin, when he's with Jesus. Both work. In this case, it's probably more about being freed from prison. But what he says is he eagerly expects and hopes. To not be ashamed of the gospel in. Life or death? Shame and Paul's Day was to experience public humiliation and for him he's expecting and awaiting the courage to still stand strong in Jesus. And not be ashamed of the gospel, not denounce his faith, no matter what happens to him for him to go out and denounce his faith. If things

were getting bad, would have brought him shame, humiliation and discredited him. But he's like I'm expecting and taking joy in the fact that I won't do that whether I'm living and working or I'm. Being put to death. For Paul's life and death matter in the context of how it shapes our relationship with Jesus, he's like, well, to live as Christ to keep spreading the message of the gospel right to God, to keep working through him. And he's like to die is gain. I'm finally with Jesus in heaven literal heaven. This is super personal. He's not thinking of anybody else or anything around him, just him finally being Jesus. So Paul's like, I would take join either one and he's like if I had to choose, I don't know which one I would pick. No, he knows. It's not really up to him. But he's like man, heaven sounds best, but it might be necessary for me to stay here, work with you guys in the Philippian church, and we'll keep spreading the gospel so he believes and he doesn't know for sure. But he believes he'll be freed from prison. That he's going to get to continue his. Through the Philippian church, the church will grow in confidence in Christ, so Paul takes joy that all of this is what's to come, joy. And what's to come moving forward? What is coming? I have some pictures coming up here. Of different food that's cut up. So on Thursday night, Stacy and I had our Valentine's Day dinner. Wasn't on Valentine's Day, we'd do it the next. Day I like to cook. For those of you that know me. And I prepare dinner often. So what we have here is a bunch of stuff cut up. There's carrots, onions, celery and some potatoes and some bacon. We threw that all together and I made it nice potato soup, which you can see in the picture down there. Maybe. So it's down there now. The point is we have all these vegetables cut up right now on their own. They're perfectly fine. Right? I like carrots. With celery, onion, potatoes all fine, but in what's to come is even better. Everything together the soup put together the nice meal got to hang out with my wife. It was great. Now it's not ignoring what's in front of me here, but it's joy and what is coming. We take joy in what's to come. There's almost always uncertainty about the future and what's coming in our own lives. As a planner, I want to know exactly what I'm doing, how it's going to work out, what comes next, and that's all going to play out. Not really one that's super spontaneous. Fly by the seat of my pants type of guy. Hall shapes what's coming in terms of being Christ. Like basically we're going to be with Jesus or live like Jesus, but it's all about Jesus. Jesus is always what's to come now it sounds good, but it's hard in practicality. It's hard. What's next? Is living like Jesus, because we can always do that, but it's hard. Cause we'll still have issues. We'll still have trials, but we can always live like Jesus and we can always do it because it cannot be taken from us to live is Christ Christ in US and through us and nothing. And nobody can take that they they can't. They can take everything else, but they can't take that. And there is joy in what's to come. The way in the future because of that, because we have that to hold on to in a super uncertain world. We have a very certain savior. There's certainty in that and I don't do well with uncertainty, so I have to hold to that, that I have certainty in Jesus and that he's always going to continue living and working through me. He's brighter

and stronger than anything else and again, things may be hard. Paul is writing from Roman prison and that's not a vacation. But there. Joy and what's to come? Because what's to come is always Jesus. Being a follower of Jesus comes with us being able to always choose joy, and when I bring this up, I know it's not that easy. There are times in my life like right now. I could say it's a little bit easier for me to choose joy and look and joy in what's coming and my present circumstances. There have been times in my life where I'm like I'm supposed to choose joy, get the out of here. With that, because I get it. But we can choose joy. We can have joy that we're not alone, that we're in this thing as a partnership, that we have each other here. Make it that. Pray for each other. Challenge each other, talk to each other about growing in the love and knowledge of God. God then take joy when Christ is preached, no matter what. How he's preached in your life and by how you live. How he's preached by others? It's not a competition. If Christ is being preached, then Christ is being preached. That's a good thing. Let's take joy. In that. And then take joy in what's to come, no matter what happens. Next, what's to come is Jesus. So choose Jesus and you'll choose joy. Let's pray. Gotta thank you for today for this morning. I thank you for these words through Paul in this chapter God and that. We can choose joy. God, I really just thank you for that part, that no matter what is happening now and what's to come next is is. It's you, no matter what. Now we can be sure of. That, and I pray that we would be willing. To hold that, to take joy in that no matter what is going on in our lives. God, we all come in here with different circumstances, with different things happening. But God, I pray that we would be willing to choose joy, and then we would. Talk about. It with each other that we would see how it's hard or how we're doing it. And God, I thank you that it is a partnership, that we can all do it together and I just really thank you. That we have that joy in you and that you're always what's to come. And I pray that we remember that this week, in your name. Amen.