PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

Read Philippians all the way through at one sitting, as you would any letter. Write out Philippians 1:6 on a card and review daily. Read Philippians 1:12-26 a couple of times.

1. In Philippians 1:12 Paul says his circumstances have turned out for the progress of the gospel (or to advance the gospel). Reconstruct Paul's circumstances in as much detail as possible (verses 12-26).

Paul refers often to the *gospel*, the good news of Jesus Christ--His character, His caring for us, His death for our sins, His present aliveness (John 3:16, Philippians 2:5-11, etc.).

- In order to be willing to go through hard circumstances so that the gospel would progress
 - a. what view of God would you need?
 - b. what view of the gospel would you need?
 - c. what does the good news of Jesus mean to you today?
- 3. In what specific ways was Paul's imprisonment turning out for the greater progress of the gospel?

The Praetorian Guard (palace guard-NIV) was the Imperial Guard of Rome. These were hand-picked, elite troops, like the Navy Seals. They were Caesar's private bodyguard and, as a group, were the king-makers of their day.

4. Why do you think it was significant that the gospel was preached to this group?

5.	Is there any indication in the letter of the impact of the gospel on this group? (Does Philippians 4:22 help?)
6.	Besides the praetorian or palace guard, what other group was influenced by Paul's imprisonment (verse 14)?
7.	Please explain how verse 14 is possible. That is, how could Paul's imprisonment cause others 1) to trust God more and 2) to speak the word of God without fear?
8.	Let's think now. What specific groups of people are observing <i>your</i> life in the midst of hard circumstances? Using verses 12-14 as an example, what should be happening in each group? Group Outcome
<u>Read</u> 9.	d verses 15-18. Two groups are mentioned in these verses. What was each group doing and what was the motive of each?
10.	How does one preach Christ out of envy and strife?
11.	Why can Paul condone the evangelism of his opposition given his strong words in Galatians 1:6-9?

Rea	<u>d</u> verses 19-26.
12.	According to verse 19 what will bring about Paul's deliverance?
13.	According to verse 20, what is the nature of the deliverance that Paul confidently expects?
14.	a. What do you learn about prayer from verses 19-20?
	b. What relevance does this have to your life?
15.	Verse 21 begins with the conjunction "for" introducing an explanation. What does this verse explain?
16.	Verse 21 expresses a universal truth. We all have to face death. And <i>if</i> indeed for us to live is Christ, to die will be to gain more of Him. BUT let's experiment by changing the first part of the sentence and see what happens. To me to live is and to die is (Fill in the first with <i>anything</i> else that might take first place in your life.)
17.	Christ was Paul's inspiration and purpose for living. Do you think this had a bearing on how Paul looked at the events in his life? Explain.
18.	What is Paul's great dilemma (verses 22-24)?
19.	How does he resolve it (verses 25-26)?

Let's review. Notice that in verses 12 and 19 Paul comments on what has happened to
him (circumstances in verse 12 and this in verse 19-NASB). In verse 12 Paul speaks of
how circumstances have turned out in the past and in verse 19 he speaks of how things
will turn out <i>in the future</i> .

20.	What does Paul believe about his circumstances and what should you believe
	about yours? Jot down some specific circumstances you are in NOW in which you
	need to apply this.

21. The most relevant thought *to me* from this passage was...

As a result I plan to....

Carolyn Roper (original 1981; revised 1991 and 2011)