

Pointless PAIN or God's PROVIDENCE?

Joy in Chains!

Paul was a MATURE believer. He knew that personal pains were not the result of God _____ him, but rather _____ him for His use!

Philippians 1:12-20 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; ¹³ So that **my bonds in Christ** are manifest in all the palace, **and in all other places**;

1. Paul knew that his CHAINS were divinely _____.

- SO: Paul was not a _____; he was THE LORD'S _____.

2. He knew that his chains were _____.

- Paul wasn't the captive! The soldier that was chained to him was.
God sees our trials AND has, in His providence, not just ALLOWED it to happen, BUT uses it:

FIRST: for your _____ . **Rom 8:28-29**

SECOND: for His _____ !

In vs 12, Paul wanted us to understand the purposes of God in our sufferings. That will bring Joy!
You can't help but get excited when you see God taking the trials of life and use them to mold you.

- **Christians are like** _____.

Put them under enough _____, and eventually they develop the ability to _____ !

You need trials in your life! You need the pressure of life's pains because that is what will make a man/woman of God out of you!

3. Results of Suffering: Growing in _____ or _____ ?

¹⁴ And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

- **Job 17:9**

What was intended by the enemy to _____ the preachers of the gospel was used by God to _____ them much more!

Their confidence in what God was doing _____ them from the _____ of fear. **1 John 4:18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment.

²⁰According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

- I **will** not _____ – I **will** _____ Him. **2 Tim 2:7-8**
- You know how to reach those that God has in your life? **Let them see your life.**^v

4. Motivations: Gain for _____ or the _____?

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even of **envy** and **strife**; and some also of **good will**:

- **Envy preachers.**

The problem with envy: Envy will _____ you! **Prov 14:30** compare **Ps 106:16-17**
When you compare yourself with others, envy can rear its head.
We all have weaknesses, failures.

- **Striving preachers.** **Strife** = factitious rivalry.

^{16a} The one preach Christ of **contention, not sincerely**, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

- **Contentious preachers.** **Contention** – looking for a fight. **2 Tim 2:23-25**
- **Insincere preachers.** Not sincerely = mixed motives.

^{16b} and some also of **good will**:

- **Good will preachers.** **Luke 2:14**
- **Loving preachers.**

¹⁷ But the other **of love**, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

¹⁸ What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in **pretence**, or in **truth**, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

- You know why we can rejoice? Because the truth is getting out! We have God's promise that:
 1. God's Word will not be void. It will accomplish God's will.
 2. God will finish the work He has started in each believer's life.

¹⁹ For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

²⁰ According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

- Bottom line:
- **Decision to make?** Let us help! Call 816.398.8171 press 5. info@mbtkc.org