

The Joyful Journey
PART 5
The Joy of the Kingdom
Philippians 1:12-18

Introduction:

In Prison... In Christ...

I. Christ's Reigning Kingdom vv. 12-13

All the Philippians knew...

Competing & Contrasting Kingdoms

The Irony & Illustration of Paul's situation

II. Christ's Liberating Chains v. 13

"My chains are in Christ."

- A. I am chained to Christ alone
- B. No one and nothing chains Christ
- C. All chains fulfill Christ's purposes
- D. My chains are powerful

III. Christ's Unstoppable Work vv. 13-18

Paul difficult circumstances advanced Christ's redeeming work, because through his troubles:

- A. Unbelievers were drawn to listen v. 13
- B. Friends were emboldened to speak v. 14
- C. Rivals were inadvertent instruments of grace vv. 15-16
- D. Paul saw his hopes fulfilled and was renewed in his vision vv. 17-18

IV. Christ's Irrepressible Joy v. 18

Every Circumstance serves Christ & No Circumstance limits Christ

Difficult Circumstances Engage & Exhibit Grace

Overwhelming Circumstances Clarify our Hope & Unveil our View of Christ's Eternal Kingdom

Philippians 1:12-18

12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of Love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wondering eye
At mysteries so bright!

Crown Him the Lord of Life
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

*I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice
To worship You - O my soul rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what You hear.
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.*

Acts 28:23, 24, 28, 30, 31

23 They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. 24 Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe...

28 "Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!"

30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:22

22 All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to **Caesar's household**.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Philippians 1:1-11

1 Paul and Timothy, **bondservants of Jesus Christ**,

To **all the saints in Christ Jesus** who are in Philippi, with the bishops[a] and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until **the day of Jesus Christ**; 7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, **inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace**. 8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with **the affection of Jesus Christ**. 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till **the day of Christ**, 11 being filled with the fruits of **righteousness which are by Jesus Christ**, to the glory and praise of God.