

**Introduction:** Each one of us needs to ask some honest self-examination questions. Please keep your individual answers in your hearts, just between you and God; but, be totally honest and open before The Holy Spirit to be rebuked and corrected, because this is the purpose of ALL Scripture. (2 Timothy 3:14-17) These questions flow from today's Bible passage. \*\*\*  
What portion of each hour do I give to focus on God, Christ and the work of proclaiming The Gospel to other people? Or, to restate the question, in the (average of) twelve hours from sunrise to sunset: How many hours do I give to Christ and His Gospel, including telling others of Him? Conversely, how many hours do I take for myself and my own selfish desires – pushing God into the background to focus on me and my passions? (I am ashamed to say some days I take eight to nine hours to myself!) \*\*\*  
These are important questions for each child of God to ask because today's passage gives us an insight into the church planting apostle Paul's heart, and how he focused his passions. After he greeted the people being made holy IN Christ living in Philippi, he thanked God in prayer because they had continually participated as partners with him in defending and confirming (proclaiming) The Gospel. Then, he prayed that their self-giving love and righteousness would continue to grow in knowledge and purity that came through Christ until His Day, SO God would be praised and glorified. (Philippians 1:1-11) \*\*\* Now, in keeping with typical first century letters, he briefly describes what is happening in his life. As he is chained to many elite Roman soldiers every day in his rented room, he has made Christ evident (manifest) to all of them, and everyone else with whom he has come into contact. And, because these actions have become known to the members of the house churches in the city, they have become persuaded to become bold to speak The Word. Some are doing this out of love for him and God. Others, are speaking out of selfish ambition and envy of Paul and hoping to cause him tribulation in his chains and confinement. \*\*\* However, Paul is rejoicing and sure he will continue to be given joy. What is the source of his joy? Just one thing: regardless of their motives, many brothers in Rome are proclaiming Christ. From this we can conclude that regardless of his circumstances, Paul had only one all-consuming passion in his heart every moment of every day: That all would know Christ AND proclaim Him.

***We rejoice with God when Christ is being preached***

**I. Paul writes his chains have brought progress to The Gospel among the soldiers so brothers in Rome speak The Word without fear. (Verses 12-14)**

A. Brothers, I want you to know my situation has brought more progress to The Gospel. (Verse 12)

1. Brothers, I desire you to know (the reason for) the things about me. (Verse 12a)
2. The progress of the coming of The Gospel has increased. (Verse 12b)

**Gospel:** Here is a summary of The Gospel from Paul: O foolish Galatians! ... before [your] eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ... through The Spirit, by faith, we wait for the hope of righteousness. ... faith working through love. (Galatians 3:1; 5:5-6) Christ died for our sins ... [and] was raised on the third day in accordance with Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:1-10) The saying is sure ... Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15) For our sake [God] made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that IN Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21, all RSV)

B. It has become evident to all people that I am in chains because I am IN Christ; and, the brothers in Rome have become confident (persuaded) to speak The Word without fear. (Verses 13-14)

1. So my chains IN Christ have become evident (manifest) in the whole 'praetorian guard' and to all. (Verse 13)

**Elite soldiers:** These elite soldiers were in special service to the Emperor. One of their duties was to take the place of a prison building. To save money, prisoners in the city of Rome were to provide their own food and shelter. The only cost to Rome was the pay of twelve soldiers each working in teams of two for four hour shifts of being chained to the prisoner. If the prisoner could afford to rent a nice room, this was easy duty. If the prisoner had to live outside in the elements, what is four hours outside to a well-trained soldier? And, if a poor prisoner died within two months, think of all the money the state saved.

**First 'confinement':** This was Paul's first confinement in Rome. He had a rented room where he was chained to teams of soldiers 24-7. (Acts 28:30-31)

**Great Commission:** From what Luke wrote, we know as Paul preached, they would have heard him. His words here confirm this conclusion. So even chained to soldiers, Paul used every waking hour to fulfill The Great Commission to make disciples of people of all nations. (Matthew 28:18-20) At the close of the letter, Paul sends greetings from the saints (being made holy by The Gospel) in Caesar's household (Philippians 4:21-22). Surely some were of the elite guard.

2. And many brothers IN (the) Lord have been persuaded because of my chains. (Verse 14a)

**Persuasion:** The word about persuasion of brothers implies their convincing had an element of faith.

3. They are daring even more so to speak The Word without fear. (Verse 14b)

**Good from suffering:** At this time, Christians were in danger in Rome for speaking The Word of The Gospel. Because Paul would not allow his suffering confinement in chains to stop him from speaking of Christ, those who were still free to come and go were made bold by the testimony of his life of faith. These circumstances may have been behind what he later wrote to these brothers (Romans 8:28).

## II. Brothers are evangelizing Romans from different motives, but Paul rejoices because The Truth of Christ is 'preached throughout'. (Verses 15-18)

- A. Some preach from envy and selfish ambition, seeking to distress him in his chains; but, some preach Christ from goodwill out of love, knowing he is being appointed to defend The Gospel. (Verses 15-17)
1. Some indeed also (are preaching Christ) because of envy and strife. (Verse 15a)  
**Who:** These brothers are perhaps being influenced by those of sensuous minds who insisted self abasement was necessary in worship who were troubling the faithful brethren in Colosse across the Aegean Sea from Macedonia in Asia Minor. (Colossians 2:16-19) They went beyond the four limits on Christian liberty determined by the Jerusalem Council some ten years before this. (Acts 15:22-29)
  2. But some are also preaching The Christ because of good will. (Verse 15b)  
**'Goodwill':** Literally 'good thinking' – they have a correct understanding of The Gospel of Christ.
- 2'. The (latter), indeed out of love (are preaching), having known that I am being appointed to defense of The Gospel. (Verse 16)  
**Appointed by God:** Their motive is from the heart. Out of love for Paul and God (they are preaching), because they recognize Paul is being called and appointed by God to be proclaiming and defending The Truth of The Gospel of Christ. They support him with their whole soul, hearts and minds.
- 1'. But, the (former), out of selfish ambition (not with pure motives) are proclaiming The Christ throughout (Rome), supposing they are raising up (awakening) tribulation (to me) in my chains. (Verse 17)  
**Selfish ambition:** Paul would write to these same brothers in Rome that those who reject The Truth and follow evil because of selfish ambition will get back (from God) anger and wrath. (Romans 2:1-11)  
**To make Paul suffer:** It is interesting that Paul would say they are supposing, or assuming, their actions from impure motives will cause Paul to suffer tribulation. They do not realize he has the peace of God (Philippians 4:4-8) which allows him to realize that The Holy Spirit can use The Truth of The Gospel (regardless of the speaker's motives) to bring people out of a crooked and perverse generation into the righteousness that is through the faith of Christ (Philippians 2:14-16; 3:7-11).

### *Different people proclaim Christ in different ways*

- B. Except that, in every manner Christ is being 'preached throughout', and in this I am rejoicing and will be made to rejoice. (Verse 18)
1. What then? Except that, in every manner, whether in pretense or in Truth, Christ is being 'preached throughout'. (Verse 18ab)  
**'Preached throughout':** The word Paul uses indicates that The Gospel is preached throughout all of a region, in this case Rome. These evangelists with mixed motives are doing God's will, carrying out Christ's last command!
  2. And in this I am rejoicing and will be made to rejoice. (Verse 18c)  
**Joy from evangelism:** And, IF we know forgiveness of sins IN Christ, and have His Life in us by The Holy Spirit, we too will rejoice with the church planting apostle Paul whenever we hear of Christ's Gospel preached throughout any region, especially in unfavorable conditions!

### *We rejoice with God when Christ is being preached*

**Paul's heart:** Paul had a heart that was fully consumed with Christ and His Mission. To him, nothing else mattered. He never felt threatened by other Christians doing their God-given work. All he wanted to do was complete the work given to him by God. His last words to his son in the faith, Timothy, express his unusual heart beautifully. (2 Timothy 4)

### *We rejoice with God when Christ is being preached.*

**Our challenge:** What about us? We are NOT in chains. May we every hour, of every day of our lives BOTH do our part to fulfill The Great Commission AND be content to let others do their part – even if their motives seem questionable. What matters is Christ IS being preached to all people everywhere.

### *We rejoice with God when Christ is being preached – especially when we are the ones witnessing!*

**Conclusion:** The apostle Paul wants his brothers in Philippi to know his being in chains in Rome has led to progress having come to The Gospel, with Christ being made evident (manifested) to all. And, this has persuaded many brothers in Rome to boldly and without fear speak The Word. But, while some are preaching Christ out of envy, with selfish ambition, in an effort to raise up tribulation for Paul in his chains, others are preaching with a good mind out of love. Because, in every way The Truth about Christ is being preached, he is rejoicing and knows he will continue to be given joy. (His only passion is for Christ to be known and The Gospel to be proclaimed.)

### *We rejoice with God when Christ is being preached*