
**PRESS ON
IN CONFIDENCE**

A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS

LESSON 3 PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18b

1. What did you find convicting or inspiring from **Philippians 1:7-11**, and what difference did it make?

 2. As you begin, ask God to give you insight into suffering for Christ's sake or for the spread of the gospel. Then read **Philippians 1:12-18b** and note Paul's perspective on his situation. What caught your attention?

 3. a) In **V12**, Paul referred to "what has happened." List some of the ways he suffered in Philippi as told in **1 Thessalonians 2:2** and **Acts 16:16-24, 37**.

b) Read more of Paul's experience in Philippi in **Acts 16:25-40**. What reason did Paul give to reassure the Philippians in the midst of his suffering in **Philippians 1:12**, and how do both of these passages encourage you?

 4. a) From **V13**, what do you think Paul did or didn't do that made it clear to those around him that his suffering was purposeful?

b) How might your experience of being "chained" in a situation (in big or small ways) help you witness to the reality and hope of Jesus?

 5. a) In addition, from **V14**, how did Paul's suffering have an effect on other Christians?

b) Has anyone's life ever had that effect on you? Explain.
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6. a) Read **V15 & 17**. The people Paul referred to were Christians. Why do you think some were envious and set themselves up as rivals (not necessarily anti-Christ, but anti-Paul)?
- b) Check your motives in serving Jesus in your home, church or workplace; where are you tempted to compare yourself to others or resent their success or praise? Take some time to talk with God and ask for His grace to serve out of love for Jesus and others.
7. From **V15-16**, what good motives and concerns did some Christians have as they served Jesus, and how does that challenge or motivate you?
8. What do you find striking about Paul's attitude and response regarding other Christians, given what you learn in **V17-18**?
9. a) Peter also wrote about suffering for Christ's sake. Read **1 Peter 2:20-21, 3:14, 4:12-13, 16**, and write a truth from any or all of these verses.
- b) How does this truth reorient your thinking or encourage you in facing opposition from others?
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10. As we see Paul's focus and source of rejoicing in **V18**:
- a) Define the word rejoice.
- b) Now put in your own words what Paul was saying.

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11. a) Why do you think Paul could rejoice and tell others to rejoice even though he was in prison?
- b) How does Paul's example impact your life right now? Explain.
12. Throughout his suffering, Paul modeled well how to *press on in confidence*.
- a) Has suffering ever brought you closer to God and/or served as a witness to others? How?
- b) What have you learned from this Lesson that might help you encourage someone in the midst of their suffering? Be specific.
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DIGGING DEEPER

1. Paul assured the Philippians that God was using his imprisonment for good purposes – to share Christ and the gospel with others. What more does God want us to know about suffering in:
- **Matthew 5:11-12**

 - **2 Timothy 3:12**
2. The New Testament is full of examples of many people who suffered for Christ or the gospel. What is your one take away for each of them?
- The Apostles in **Acts 5:40-42**
 - John in **Revelation 1:9**
 - Paul in **2 Timothy 1:8, 2:3**
 - The Hebrews in **Hebrews 10:34**
 - The Thessalonians in **1 Thessalonians 3:3-4**
 - Believers around the world in **1 Peter 5:9**
3. a) Write out the Suggested Memory Verse: **Philippians 1:12** or **1 Peter 2:21**
- b) Write a prayer for any suffering (yours or a loved one), big or small, to advance the gospel.

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PRAYER REQUEST