**PHILIPPIANS**

Class Study - 1:12-30

1. 1:12 Now I want you to know - One of the primary reasons that Paul wrote his epistle to the Philippians was to tell them how things were going for him in Rome.
2. What kind of questions may they have had?

There is a saying, “to care is to communicate.” Paul is showing great care for the Philippians.

1. How can we show our care for people who may not know much about Christ and His mission?
2. 1:12 Advance the Gospel –
3. What excuses might he have had to not share anything with anyone?

Paul may be imprisoned but his first concern is the “advancement of the gospel.” What does that say about him? Before the Korean War, the Christian population of South Korea was less than 1%. Now over 30% of South Korea is Christian. The largest Christian congregation in the world is located in Seoul.

1. How does that relate to what is happening in Philippi?
2. Do you know of situations where good came from bad for a Christian?
3. 1:14 Paul showed his courage in a dangerous situation. This encouraged others to be witnesses for the gospel. Years earlier a congregation had been founded at Rome. It consisted mostly of Gentile converts. After Paul arrived in the city, large numbers of Jews, including several entire synagogues, were also converted to Christianity.
4. Do you know of a situation where people were encouraged to this extent?
5. Have you ever been a part of such a setting?
6. What does this say about the power of one positive witness?
7. 1:16 How can doing God’s work become a motivating force?
8. 1:18 God can use most everyone and any situation to bring His kingdom into people’s hearts. Read Judges 13-16 (Samson), Numbers 11:24-30 (Moses/Joshua), Numbers 22:1-24:9 (Balaam) and Mark 9:38-39.
9. What is proved from these readings?
10. How can even faithful Christians like John and Joshua get it wrong?
11. What is the lesson in this for us?
12. 1:19-22 - When Paul is saying this he doesn’t know if he will be executed or set free. How does looking to the future help in dealing with past and present negatives events?

1. 1:19-22 - Come what may for Paul, life or death, Christ will be honored. If he dies, he dies as a martyr for the confirmation of the Gospel, if he lives he will continue to spread the Gospel. The word “martyr” comes from the word “witness.” A Christian’s death (even if it is a normal death) is the final witness that that person gives to those around them.
2. How does Paul’s either/or way of thinking become a motivation for his Philippian followers?
3. How can the death of a Christian friend of relative encourage us?
4. 1:23-26
5. Do you think that Paul might be trying to escape his problems? If, yes, list your reasons why you think so.
6. If you don’t think he is bailing out then also state why you feel that way.
7. What lesson is Paul teaching the Philippians?
8. How can we apply that lesson to our daily lives?
9. 1:27-30 - Paul is telling them to “exercise citizenship.” The Philippians were proud of their Roman citizenship. Roman citizenship was the most prized of all the citizenships at that time. There were three ways to obtain Roman citizenship: (1) receive it as a reward for some outstanding service to Rome; (2) buy it at a considerable price; (3) be born into a family of Roman citizens. Many of the Philippians had probably paid dearly with both service and money to get Roman citizenship. Paul uses that opening to tell them that they also have spiritual (heavenly) citizenship.
10. How had they gotten their heavenly citizenship?

Citizenship can be lost when it is not exercised. Paul challenges them to be good heavenly citizens.

1. What are some actions they are to take to be “worthy of the gospel?”
2. How can we exercise our Christian citizenship?
3. What are some intentional steps are you going to take in the next week? Month?