

### Philippians Lesson 3 Articles

When we take Christ into every circumstance, we will have joy. Paul was not the prisoner of Rome; he was the “prisoner of Jesus Christ” (Eph. 3:1; 4:1). The soldiers chained to his wrist were not guards; they were souls for whom Christ died. Paul had a “captive audience,” and from 1:13 and 4:22, we conclude that he won some of them to Christ. The single-minded Christian does not allow circumstances to overcome him; he or she turns those circumstances into opportunities to magnify Christ and win souls.

Selfishness always breeds unhappiness. Paul had joy because he loved others. He prayed for others, encouraged others, and sought to bring joy to others. Paul’s “heaven on earth” was helping others! While he longed to be with Christ, he eagerly yearned to remain and help these believers grow in Christ.

His body was not his own; his future was not his own; his reputation was not his own. In contrast, when we put ourselves first, it always brings misery.

Whenever difficulties affect our lives, we should always be sure that we have the single mind that says, “Lord, whatever comes, I want Christ to be glorified.” This is the secret of Christian joy.<sup>1</sup>

1:12 — God has a delightful way of turning negatives into positives. He loves to take things that Satan means for our harm and use them instead for His glory and our benefit.

1:21 — Paul did not want to do great things for God; He wanted God to do great things in and through him. His goal was to serve as the hands and feet and mouth of Christ, doing in Christ’s power what Christ would do.

1:29 - The word “granted” comes from the Greek term *charis*, often translated “gift.” Believing in Christ is a gift of God, but so is suffering for Christ. If we would not refuse the first, neither should we the second (Rom. 8:17).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe’s expository outlines on the New Testament* (pp. 561–562). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>2</sup> Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Php 1:12–29). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.