

Philippians 1:12-26

Life Group Notes

- In vs. 12 Paul uses the line “what has happened to me”. This sums up the journey to Rome in chapter 21-28 of Acts. How did Paul end up in Rome and what were some of the issues he faced?
- Paul had longed to go to Rome (Acts 19:21 “I must visit Rome also, Romans 1:15 “so eager to preach the Gospel to you also in Rome”). He wanted to go there as a preacher and ended up going as a prisoner. Are there things that God has done in your life differently to the way you expected Him to?
- How do you respond when things in life don’t go the way you planned? How easy do you find it to ask God what He is doing in the midst of it?
- How did Paul’s chains advance the Gospel?
- What things in your life might you view as ‘chains’? These could be negative restrictions or simply life stage, job or circumstance restrictions. How does God use our ‘lack’ (like Paul’s chains) for His glory and Gospel advance? How can we be more open to seeing that?
- Paul’s joy is because of the boldness that has come in others because of his chains. Who encourages and emboldens you in your faith? How? Do you consider yourself able to be that person for others?
- Some preach Christ out of envy and selfish ambition (vs. 15-17). Paul doesn’t try to control this. How easy do you find it to be at peace about things out of your control? What tips are there for being more peaceful in this area? (cf. vs. 19)
- How do we know when something needs addressing and when we need to let it go?
- Paul had Joy in the journey. Not the journey he wanted or expected or the way he had envisioned it. But Gospel fruit. Not fruit he micro-managed and controlled, but fruit from God’s plans, his people’s prayers and His Spirit’s provision. How does this testimony from Paul encourage you?