**PHILIPPIANS**

Leader Notes - 1:12-30

1. 1:12 Now I want you to know –
2. What kind of questions may they have had? **Answers may vary but the following might be some possibilities: The Philippians were concerned about the apostle. They wondered what would happen to him, and they were concerned about the effect his imprisonment would have on the overall cause of the Gospel. Would people continue to respond positively to a message whose best known and more eloquent advocate was now a prisoner of the state?**
3. How can we show our care for people who may not know much about Christ and His mission? **Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks.**
4. 1:12 Advance the Gospel –
5. What excuses might he have had to not share anything with anyone? **Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks.**
6. How does that relate to what is happening in Philippi? **The following thoughts may be helpful: Paul’s situation brought him into contact with many people who otherwise might not have known anything about him. Paul had opportunities to proclaim the Gospel before civil and religious leaders in the hearing by the soldiers and countless others. As a result, people talked about him and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**In verse 13 we hear about the palace guard. The guard members spoke about Paul and his case to one another, to their families and to others in Rome. As a result, the Gospel of Christ and the remarkable ambassador who was willing to suffer imprisonment for the sake of the Gospel became “front page” talk of all Rome. The mistrust and hostility that many in Rome had harbored toward this “new” religion called Christianity were broken down, as the real issue in Paul’s case became clear, and the Gospel message itself became more generally known. Paul’s eloquent defense and confirmation of the Gospel at his public hearing likewise served to generate favorable publicity for the Gospel throughout the imperial city.**

1. Do you know of situations where good came from bad for a Christians?

**Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks.**

1. 1:14 – Encouraged…encouraged…fearlessly -
2. Do you know of a situation where people were encouraged to this extent?

**Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks.**

1. Have you ever been a part of such a setting?

**Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks.**

1. What does this say about the power of one positive witness?

**Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks.**

1. 1:16 How can doing God’s work become a motivating force? **Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks. The following are items from the situation in Philippi: Paul’s true friends proclaimed the Gospel from good will, out of love. They knew the true reason for Paul’s incarceration and would have shrunk a thousand times from hurting him. The Gospel of Christ gained power in their estimation by the fact of Paul’s imprisonment. They felt the might of martyrdom. For that reason they, on the Philippians’ part, spread the Gospel with sincerity and singleness of heart. Their love for the apostle, their sympathy for his circumstances, intensified their zeal for the Gospel.**
2. 1:18
3. What is proved from these readings? **God can use all kinds of people in many different situations to advance His cause.**
4. How can even faithful Christians like John and Joshua get it wrong? **Because even faithful Christians are still sinners this side of heaven.**
5. What is the lesson in this for us? **Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks. The following thoughts may also be helpful: Paul was able to keep everything in perspective. He did not excuse those who were preaching from false motives and trying to win applause at his expense, but he did not pity himself, either. Paul realized that the truly important thing was that the Gospel was being preached. Someday they would have to answer to God about their false motives, but the Lord was using even those selfish believers, despite their motives, to proclaim Christ. Because Christ was being proclaimed and honored, Paul rejoiced.**
6. 1:19-22 - How does looking to the future help in dealing with past and present negatives events? **Past events can clearly show how God has been with us when things were difficult. In the OT God often reminded His people of how He had brought them out of Egypt.**

**The Greek word for “expect” means, “is the watching with head erect or outstretched; waiting for something in suspense.” What Paul is waiting for with eager expectation and confident hope is that Christ will be glorified in this whole matter. When we pray for rain we should take an umbrella when we go somewhere.**

1. 1:19 –22
2. How can Paul’s either/or way of thinking become a motivation for his Philippian followers? **Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks.**
3. How does the death of a Christian friend or relative encourage us?

**Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks.**

1. 1:23-26
2. Do you think that Paul might be trying to escape his problems? If, yes, list your reasons why you think so. **Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks.**
3. If you don’t think he is bailing out then also state why you feel that way. **Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks.**
4. What lesson is Paul teaching them? **Paul puts the needs of those he ministers to ahead of his personal preference.**

**All the historical evidence we possess indicates that the apostle’s expectations were fulfilled. Apparently he was set free from this particular imprisonment and allowed by the Lord to carry on his apostolic labors, at least for a few more years. It is also quite likely that Paul did see the Philippians again before he was arrested and imprisoned for the second and final time. That second imprisonment and its outcome are discussed in Paul’s last letter, 2 Timothy.**

1. How can we apply that lesson to our daily lives? **Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks.**
2. 1:27-30
3. How had they gotten their heavenly citizenship? **By hearing the Gospel being preached and taught.**
4. What are some actions they are to take to be “worthy of the gospel?” **Answers may vary but the following information may be helpful: Ephesians 4:1 states, “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” The Greek word for “live” is “walk.” The idea in Hebrew signifies one’s entire conduct. This means to be totally dedicated with living in a certain manner. Today we might say “walk the talk.”**
5. How can we exercise our Christian citizenship? **Answers will vary. Accept them with thanks.**
6. What are some intentional steps are you going to take in the next week? Month? **Don’t push this too hard because class participants may not be ready to share this information in a group setting. It may be a good question for them to ponder in the week(s) ahead in private.**