

**Philippians 1:9 (NLT)**

<sup>9</sup> I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.

## **Philippians 1:10 (NLT)**

**<sup>10</sup> For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.**

## **Philippians 1:11 (NLT)**

**<sup>11</sup> May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation - the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ - for this will bring much glory and praise to God.**

**Philippians 1:12** (NLT)

**<sup>12</sup> And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News.**

**Philippians 1:13** (NLT)

<sup>13</sup> For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ.

# **You Cannot STOP the Gospel**

**Philippians 2:7-19**

**Acts 9:15-16 (NIV)**

...the Lord said to Ananias, "**Go! This man is my chosen instrument** to carry My Name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for My Name.

Acts 23:11 (NLT)

That night the Lord appeared to Paul and said,  
Be encouraged, Paul. **Just as you have been  
a witness to ME here in Jerusalem, you must  
preach the Good News in Rome as well.**



**Acts 28:30-31** (NIV)

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. <sup>31</sup> **Boldly and without hindrance he PREACHED** the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Paul **PRAYS** for them that...

- their Love would **OVERFLOW**
- they would **GROW** in Knowledge and Understanding
- they would **DISCERN** what Best
- they live Pure and **BLAMELESS** lives
- they be filled with the **FRUIT** of their Righteousness

<sup>11</sup> filled with the **FRUIT of RIGHTEOUSNESS**  
that comes through Jesus Christ - to the  
glory and praise of God.

Our **Righteousness** comes through our **faith in Christ**. He Justifies us and transforms our lives, as we become more like Him. **A relationship with Christ is Required** to have fruit in the Christian life. HNT

John 15:4-5 (NIV)

**REMAIN in Me**, and I will remain in you. **No branch**

can bear fruit by itself; it must **remain** in the vine.

either can you bear fruit unless you **REMAIN in Me**.

<sup>5</sup> **I am the vine; you are the branches.** If a man

**REMAINS in Me** and I in him, he will bear much fruit;

**apart from Me you can do nothing.**

## Remaining in the VINE means to STAY...

- **CONNECTED** to the Vine
- **DEPENDENT** on the Vine

→ **PRUNING** is **trimming back ALL**  
**parts of the branch** that are not  
Essential to Growing Fruit

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and grief's to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged.  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.



The positive response Paul received **in the FACE of opposition** caused others to speak more courageously and fearlessly for Christ. Paul's imprisonment was doing what his circumstances outside of prison could never do.

## Other Believers...

- saw Paul use **PRISON** as an opportunity to **Share** the Good News
- were encouraged to use their **FREEDOM** to **Share** the Gospel

## Paul's Friends

Preach Christ

Out of goodwill

In Love

Know I am here to defend  
the gospel

Genuine Motives

## Paul's Opponents

Preach Christ

Out of Envy and Rivalry

From Selfish Ambition

Want to stir up trouble and to  
make things worse for me

False Motives

The Message was **TRUE** –  
but the **Motives** were **TWISTED** and sinful

Paul knew that his **current circumstances**  
were not as important as what  
**he did with them.** LABC

<sup>19</sup> For I know that **as you PRAY for me** and  
**the Spirit of Jesus Christ HELPS me,**  
this will lead to my **DELIVERANCE.**

(NLT)

→ Paul expected their **PRAYER** and the  
**Work of H.S.** would lead to his  
**DELIVERANCE**

## Paul's Reaction...

- he did not **FOCUS** on Himself
- the Mission was still the **SAME**
- was to **SHOW** the Greatness of Christ
- did not **ACCUSE** God of Neglecting him
- did not **Blame** Satan
- **REMEMBERED** he was Under Orders



2 Timothy 2:3-4 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> **Endure hardship** with us like a **good soldier** of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> **No one serving as a soldier** gets involved in **civilian affairs** - he wants to please his **commanding officer**.

## Characteristics of a GOOD Soldier

- Endure **HARDSHIP**
- Don't get **TANGLED** up in Civilian life
- Make it your goal to **PLEASE** your Commander

<sup>16</sup> ...knowing that **I am PUT HERE** for  
the defense of the gospel.