

I'M NOT OUT YET, BUT I'M FREE
PHILIPPIANS 1:15-18-25, ROMANS 8:28
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INTRODUCTION

- The Church at Philippi was one of the earliest Christian communities established by the Apostle Paul.
- Paul's letter to the Philippian church is often considered a warm and positive letter, expressing Paul's gratitude and affection for the believers in Philippi.
- The Church at Philippi served as a model of faithfulness, partnership, and sacrificial giving.

I. PAUL SPEAKS OF HIS FREEDOM

- Philippians 1:15-18-25, "...some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill...out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition...that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way...Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice."
- Paul is so focused on Jesus, not his circumstances.
- Vs. 18, "But what does it matter?"
- Vs. 20 - Paul is saying, I'm not asking God to reduce my hardship, but to increase my courage.
- God wants to teach us to be free in our spirit and not just changing our situation.
- Paul says, "I'm not out yet, but I'm free."
- We often pray God set me free from "it". Set me free from the situation.

- But a lot of times we need to realize its not "it", its "me".
- Jesus said, "Who the Son sets free is free indeed."

II. PAUL REMEMBERS

- Philippians 1:3-6, "I thank my God every time I remember you...⁶ being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
- Paul reminds himself of Romans 8:28 and realizes that God is with him in the present situation.
- Romans 8:28, "We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."
- God causes, not just good things, but "all things to work together for good."
- We have to predetermine our response that God is good way before we find ourselves facing challenges.
- Question: Do you think Paul believed this?

III. IS GOD STILL GOOD WHEN THE ANSWER IS NO?

- What if God says, "No I'm not going to make it easier."
- What is God keeping you from that you don't even realize He is protecting you from?
- Just because God said No, Paul didn't give up.
- Paul's focus was always Jesus.
- Paul was chained to, God's Grace!

CLOSE

- Don't give up, don't give in, don't phone it in, God has a plan, He will be faithful to complete it.