JOYFUL PROGRESS IN THE FAITH
September 27, 2026

TEXT—Phil. 1:12-26

Main Idea—Pursuing a deep relationship with Jesus Christ through faith in the Gospel is the key to making joyful progress in the faith**.**

1. PAUL'S CHAINS (Phil. 1:12-14)—Paul encouraged the Christians in Philippi with a great report. Even though he was arrested for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God used it to advance its message throughout Philippi and the Roman Empire**.**

*Paul's chains gave him a new mission field **(Phil. 1:13).**

2 Tim. 2:8-10; Phil. 4:21-22

Paul's chains gave courage to the saints in Philippi **(Phil. 1:14).

Rom. 1:16; Rom. 8:28

Application—Whatever adversity you're currently facing in your life, look for the God-given opportunity to glorify Christ and point someone to Him.

2. PAUL'S CRITICS (Phil. 1:15-18)—Paul's preaching encouraged the church to take the Gospel forward, but he also had his fair share of critics. This challenge didn't steal Paul's joy or stop the Gospel; it only deepened Paul's joy & resolve**.**

Warren Wiersbe (1929-2019)—When we take Christ into every circumstance, we will have joy.

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Col. 3:17, 23-24

Application—In light of your current challenges (whether chains, critics or whatever) who are you focusing on? Is your focus on Christ and the opportunity the glorify Him in this or some selfish focus?

3. PAUL'S CRISIS (Phil. 1:19-26)—The 3rd challenge Paul overcame by focusing on the Gospel was facing the possibility of execution if he was found to be a traitor to Rome. His initial trial went well, but the final verdict was yet to come. Nevertheless, Paul leaned hard on his faith in Jesus Christ.

2 Cor. 5:6-9

Conclusion/Application—Are you living with a singular focus on Christ (knowing Him, growing in Him, showing Him to others, going & sharing Him with others)? Focus on JOY in the Lord. J-Jesus (Phil. 1:21) O-Others (Phil. 1:24-25) Y-Yourself (Phil. 1:6).