

THERE IS

VICTORY



Warren W. Wiersbe, [The Bible Exposition Commentary](#), vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 67–68.

IN GOD!



..... **It Matters!**

- Paul shows us in this area of scripture that it matters what you are experiencing in life.
- God can use it as a tool for you to be victorious, just as He used Moses' rod, Gideon's pitchers, David's sling, and He even used Paul's chains.
- Little did the Romans realize that the chains they affixed to his wrists would release Paul instead of binding him!

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Even as he wrote while imprisoned:

2 Timothy 2:9 (NKJV)

for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.

- He did not complain about his chains; instead, he consecrated them to God and asked God to use them to advance the Gospel. And God answered his prayers.

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Paul's Chains Gave Him Contact With The Lost

Philippians 1:12–13 (NKJV)

12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,

13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

- Our difficult moments will sometimes bring us into contact with someone we might not have typically made a connection with.
- He was chained to a Roman soldier twenty-four hours a day! The shifts changed every six hours, which meant Paul could witness to at least four men each day!

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- It was not long before some of these soldiers put their faith in Christ. Paul was able to get the Gospel into the elite Praetorian Guard, something he could not have done had he been a free man.
- Paul made the best out of a terrible situation. Many of us can learn to make the best out of the worst situation.
- Paul's secret is this: when you have a single mind, a mind like Christ, you look on your circumstances as God-given opportunities for the furtherance of the Gospel; and you rejoice at what God will do instead of complaining about what God did not do.

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Psalm 97:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Light is sown for the righteous, And gladness for the upright in heart.

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

God protects His people, delivers them, gives them light for their path, and puts gladness into their hearts.

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- The image is that of the sower; the Lord plants light like seeds so that His people will not always walk in darkness, and what He plants will eventually bear fruit.
- God's people have their dark days when life is difficult, but there are always seeds of light and joy to accompany us along the way. Is there any reason why we should not be rejoicing now?

Psalm 28:7 (NKJV)

The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.

Paul's chains not only gave contact with the lost, but they also gave courage to the saved

Philippians 1:14 (NKJV)

and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

- Many of the believers in Rome took fresh courage when they saw Paul's faith and determination.
- They were "much more bold to speak the word without fear."

- That word speak does not mean "preach." Rather, it means "everyday conversation."
- No doubt, many of the Romans discussed Paul's case because such legal matters were of primary concern to this nation of lawmakers.
- The Christians in Rome who were sympathetic to Paul took advantage of this conversation to say a good word for Jesus Christ.
- Discouragement has a way of spreading, but so does encouragement!

1 Thessalonians 3:2 (NKJV)

and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith,

- We are to encourage people through the word of God and make them strong through the word of God.
- Paul's joyful attitude, Rome's believers, took fresh courage and witnessed boldly for Christ.

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- It is sad, but when you are victorious in Christ, you will always have critics.
- It is hard to believe that anyone would oppose Paul, but there were believers in Rome doing just that.

The churches there were divided.

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Philippians 1:15 (NKJV)

Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill:

- Some preached Christ sincerely, wanting to see people saved.
- Some preached Christ insincerely, wanting to make the situation more difficult for Paul.

- I wonder how far the church would be today if we were not consistently attacking each other.

Ephesians 4:1–3 (NKJV)

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

One group was using the Gospel to further their selfish purposes.

- Perhaps they belonged to the "legalistic" wing of the church that opposed Paul's ministry to the Gentiles as he emphasized God's grace instead of obedience to the Jewish Law.
- Envy and strife go together, just as love and unity go together.
- If we desire unity in the church, we must learn to love people through the grace of God.

Ephesians 6:24 (NKJV)

Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.
Amen.

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Because Of Christ, We Have The Victory

Philippians 1:16–18 (NKJV)

16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;

17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

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Philippians 1:16

(KJV) The word contention is used

- It means "to canvass for office, to get people to support you."
- Paul's aim was to glorify Christ and get people to follow Him; his critics aimed to promote themselves and win a following of their own.
- Instead of asking, "Have you trusted Christ?" they asked, "Whose side are you on—ours or Paul's?"
- Unfortunately, this kind of "religious politics" is still seen today.

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- The people who practice it need to realize that they are only hurting themselves.
- When you have a single mind, a mind like Christ, you look on your critics as another opportunity to further the Gospel's furtherance.
- Like a faithful soldier, Paul was "set [appointed] for the defense of the Gospel" (Phil. 1:17).
- He was able to rejoice, not in his critics' selfishness, but in the fact that Christ was being preached!

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Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

- There was no envy in Paul's heart. It mattered not that some were for him, and some were against him.
- All that mattered was the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!
- It is a historical record that the two great English evangelists, John Wesley and George Whitefield, disagreed on doctrinal matters. Both of them were very successful, preaching to thousands of people and seeing multitudes come to Christ.

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- It is reported that somebody asked Wesley if he expected to see Whitefield in heaven, and the evangelist replied, "No, I do not."
- "Then you do not think Whitefield is a converted man?"
- "Of course, he is a converted man!" Wesley said. "But I do not expect to see him in heaven—because he will be so close to the throne of God and me so far away that I will not be able to see him!"
- Though he differed with his brother in some matters, Wesley did not have any envy in his heart, nor did he seek to oppose Whitefield's ministry.

- Criticism is usually tough to take, mainly when we are in difficult circumstances, as Paul was.
- How was the apostle able to rejoice even in the face of such diverse criticism?
- He possessed the single mind, a mind like Christ!

Philippians 1:27 (NKJV)

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

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