

“The Power of Being a One Thing Person Philippians 1:12-23

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; ¹⁴ and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 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.

¹⁹ For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

v 21- “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

When you’re a one thing person . . .

1. It enables you to transform personal disappointments

v. 12 “But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me. . .

Paul’s aspiration: **Rome**

Paul’s situation: **incarceration**

v. 12 – “I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,”

Furtherance = someone with a machete who is out front

cutting the **underbrush** so the army behind them can advance

"All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household." Phil. 4:22

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

When you’re a one thing person . . .

2. It can change impossible relationships

v. 15-16 – “Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: **The** former preach Christ from selfish ambition.”

v 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.”

When you’re a one thing person . . .

3. You can face future uncertainties

v 22a – “but if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor;”

v 22b-23 ‘yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.’

Depart = ‘loosening the ropes that hold you to the dock.’

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