

Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. Matthew 7:24-25

Rejoicing In Our Suffering

¹² 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. ¹³ For everyone here, including the whole palace guard knows that I am in chains because of Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear. ¹⁵ It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives.... ¹⁸ But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice."

Philippians 1:12-15,18 (NLT)

1. Suffering persecution _____ the spread of the gospel (v.12-13).
 - A. Persecution and suffering brings us into the heart of fellowship with Christ (Philippians 3:10, Philippians 2:6-11).
 - B. It was God's sovereign plan for Paul to witness the gospel to others while in his imprisonment at Rome (Philippians 1:13, 4:22).
 - C. "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20, NLT)."
2. Suffering persecution enables _____ to grow in the Lord and encourages the _____ of one's faith (v.14).
 - A. Paul's imprisonment encourages others to trust the Lord and shows the genuine nature of his faith and commitment to Christ (Philippians 1:14, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7).
 - B. "For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure; this is a gracious thing in the sight of God." (1 Peter 2:20 ESV)
3. There is _____ in the proclamation of God's gospel message even when we suffer in sharing it (v. 15,18).
 - A. The gospel message offers:
 - a. Faith

- b. _____
- c. Fellowship
- d. _____
- e. Future

Action

1. Let us walk in _____ where Christ leads us to do ministry. Trust that trials and suffering proves the genuine nature of our faith.
2. Be _____ about praying and communing with God to understand God's motives in our suffering.
3. Believe that suffering is an _____ for testing that we experience so that God can produce in us righteous lives that stand the test of faith.

God I give myself to you in all circumstances!

Memory Verse

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20, NLT).