

A sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water's surface. The clouds are soft and illuminated by the setting sun.

Stand United

Philippians 1:1-12-30

Stephanie Fehr | January 15, 2023

Vv.12-26: Reflections on current affairs

- v.12: “brothers and sisters” - *adelphoi*
- Paul’s imprisoned for causing trouble/ preaching the gospel
 - Acts 21: Paul accused of taking a Gentile into the temple
 - Transferred to Rome, awaiting trial
 - 2 years

Vv.12-26: Reflections on current affairs

- v.13: everyone guarding him, including the Roman governor, knows he’s in chains for Christ
- Romans 8:28: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
- v.21: “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”
 - Paul’s desire is for Christ to be glorified

Vv.12-26: Reflections on current affairs

- Paul decentralizes himself from the story
 - vv.15-17: some preach Christ while bad mouthing Paul
- v.19: strong confidence that he will be saved from his current situation
 - Vv.25-26: they will continue to partner together

Vv.12-26: Reflections on current affairs

- v.19: Prayers and the Spirit of Jesus Christ
- Paul regularly asks for prayer and prays for others
 - 1) the Christian life cannot be lived in isolation
 - 2) God works through the prayers of his people

Vv.12-26: Reflections on current affairs

- v.19: Prayers and the Spirit of Jesus Christ
- The presence of the Spirit
 - when we believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, the Spirit is within us (Romans 8:9)
 - we may experience the Spirit's presence and power in greater abundance

vv.27-30: Encouraging the church

- The church in Philippi are experiencing opposition (v.30)
- being together and united
 - standing firm in one spirit (v. 27), striving together as one (v. 27), withstanding fears together (v. 28).

Theme of Suffering

- Paul quotes Job:
 - 1:19: "for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance"
 - Job 13:16: "Indeed, this will turn out for my deliverance..."
 - suffering is part of the fabric of a creation that is not in its final form, for disorder still exists

Takeaways from the passage...

- Stand united
- Pray for one another

