

WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE THIEVES THAT ROB US OF HIS JOY CIRCUMSTANCES PEOPLE THINGS AND WORRY WE CAN HAVE JOY
IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN SPITE OF PEOPLE IN SPITE OF THINGS AND IN SPITE OF WORRY

IN CHAPTER ONE PAUL REVEALS HOW HE DEALS WITH DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE VERSES WE HAVE LOOKED AT SO
FAR BY BEING SINGLE MINDED

VERSES 3-6 GRATEFUL IN HIS THINKING IN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE GOSPEL CONFIDENT THAT CHRIST WOULD COMPLETE
WHAT HE HAD BEGUN PAUL REJOICED IN HIS MIND

VERSES 7-8 PAUL REJOICED IN HIS HEART THAT THEY WERE PARTAKERS OF GRACE AND PARTNERS IN THE DEFENSE AND
CONFORMATION OF THE GOSPEL

VERSES 9-11 PAUL REJOICED IN HIS PRAYERS THAT THEY WERE GROWING IN THEIR LOVE TESTING THEIR FEELINGS WITH
TRUTH HAVING BEEN FILLED WITH THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS OR THE HOLY SPIRIT

PAUL'S LIFE WAS NOT ABOUT ENJOYING HIS CIRCUMSTANCES HIS JOY CAME FROM SPREADING THE GOSPEL PAUL'S JOY
CAME FROM GOD'S AGENDA HE HAD NO AGENDA OF HIS OWN SEEKING FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT WAS HIS JOY

THE SAME GOD WHO USED MOSE'S ROD GIDEON'S PITCHERS AND DAVID'S SLING USED PAUL'S CHAINS

V12 PAUL SAYS MY CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE TURNED OUT FOR THE GREATER CAUSE OF THE GOSPEL

V13 HIS IMPRISONMENT PAUL'S CHAINS GAVE PAUL CONTACT WITH THE LOST HE WAS CHAINED TO A ROMAN SOLDIER
TWENTY FOUR HOURS A DAY THE SHIFTS CHANGED SIX HOURS SO PAUL COULD WITNESS TO AT LEAST FOUR MEN EACH DAY

V14 PAUL'S CHAINS GAVE COURAGE TO THE SAVED THEY SHARED THE WORD WITHOUT FEAR PAUL'S JOYFUL ATTITUDE WAS
HAVING AN IMPACT THE GOSPEL WAS SPREADING AND SO WAS HIS JOY

V15-19 PAUL'S CRITICS SOME WERE PREACHING CHRIST FROM ENVY AND STRIFE AND OTHERS FROM GOOD WILL SOME LOVE
PAUL OTHERS OPPOSE PAUL JUST USING THE GOSPEL FOR THEIR OWN SELFISH GAIN PROMOTING THEMSELVES RATHER
THAN CHRIST WANTING PEOPLE TO CHOSE SIDES RATHER THAN CHRIST UNFORTUNATELY THAT STILL GOES ON TODAY

PAUL CONTINUES TO REJOICE BECAUSE RATHER IN PRETENSE OR IN TRUTH CHRIST IS PROCLAIMED AGAIN EVIDENCE OF A
SINGLE MIND NOT FOCUSED ON HIS CIRCUMSTANCES BUT ON CHRIST AND THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

PAUL EXPECTED VICTORY BECAUSE OF THE PRAYERS OF HIS FRIENDS AND THE SUPPLY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HE WAS FOCUSED
ON THE RESOURCES GOD HAD PROVIDED HIM

V20-26 PAUL'S CRISIS MAGNIFIED CHRIST LIKE A TELESCOPE MAGNIFIES THE STARS THE STARS BEING MUCH BIGGER THAN
THE TELESCOPE YET THE TELESCOPE BRINGS THEM CLOSER PAUL WAS NOT AFRAID OF LIFE OR DEATH

PAUL CONFESSES HE IS FACING DIFFICULT DECISIONS HE WANTED HIS LIFE TO BE LIKE THE LENS ON A TELESCOPE OR A
MAGNIFYING GLASS BRINGING JESUS CLOSER TO OTHERS FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL AND THE JOY OF THEIR
FAITH

PAUL DESCRIBES HIS DEATH AS A DEPARTURE LIKE TAKING YOUR TENT DOWN WHEN THE CAMPING TRIP IS OVER 2COR 5:1-8
WHICH SHOULD HE CHOSE TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY AND BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD OR TO REMAIN HERE ON EARTH
FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL AND THE GROWTH OF THE SAINTS

FOR PAUL IT WAS ALL ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIM TO LIVE WAS CHRIST AND TO DIE
WAS GAIN HOW WOULD YOU FILL IN THE BLANKS

IT IS NOT UNTIL YOU ARE PREPARED TO DIE FOR CHRIST THAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO LIVE FOR HIM