

3/1/10 (pm) - Series on Philippians - Sermon 12

# Facing the Future ... with Rejoicing!

**Phil. 1:18d-20**

***Theme:** Christians can rejoice in any trial because it will result in their vindication before God through other Christians' prayers and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.*

# Paul Continues to Rejoice (1:18d)

1:15-18c - why Paul rejoices *in the present*.

1:19-20 – why Paul rejoices as he anticipates *the future*.

He gives two reasons why:

**1. The Apostle knew his  
circumstances would turn out  
for his *deliverance* (1:19)**

What does Paul mean by  
*deliverance*?

The Greek may be translated  
*salvation*.

Paul is not referring to rescue from his present plight.

He is referring to his ultimate vindication before God at the last judgement.

How do we know?

Paul in 1:19b uses Job's exact words  
from Job 13:16.

Job 13:16 concerns standing before  
the Lord and being vindicated.

How does Paul know he will be  
vindicated?

**Because of two factors:**

**a) The Philippian Christians were praying for him (1:19a).**

He knew their prayers would be a factor in his vindication.

See the key point?

*Interceding for Christians in trying circumstances is a vital ministry...*

*...and it is effective.*

**b) The Spirit of Jesus would be supplied to him (1:19b).**

Scripture teaches that Jesus is always with a Christian, *cf.* Romans 8:11; John 14:16-17a...

...but in 1:19 the supply of the Spirit is in answer to the Philippians' prayers!

This will provide the help Paul  
needs to face the Roman tribunal ...

... and so not let the Lord down ...

... and so be ultimately vindicated!

This made Paul look at the future  
and rejoice.

*We must grasp this vital teaching!*

*We need each other's prayers!*

*If we don't pray for Christians facing trials, the Spirit will not be supplied to them in the way He would be if we prayed.*

## **2. Paul knew that Christ would be exalted in his body (1:20)**

Paul bridges the gap between his present situation and his vindication.

He knows how he will behave, and what the result will be, at his trial.

It will happen because he will be supplied with Spirit in answer to prayer.

**Note** that  
the words  
*eagerly expect* and *hope*  
mean that Paul is  
certain  
of the future.

- Paul **will not** be ashamed **before God.**
- He **will have** courage **in proclaiming Christ.**
- Christ **will be** exalted in his whole being whether Paul lives or dies.

*Other Christians' prayers will cause  
the Spirit to be supplied to us in  
trials ...*

*... this will result in the ability to  
behave in a Christ-like way ...*

*... so that Jesus is exalted in us ...*

*... and this should cause us to face  
the future with rejoicing.*

# Conclusion

## - The 'Lens' of our Body

*When trials come in 2010 let us  
know and practice 1:18d-20.*

...

*When Christ is exalted in our body,  
it becomes a 'lens' and...*

*...those who consider Christ 'little'  
will see Him 'big'...*

*...and those who see Him as  
'distant' will see Him 'at close  
quarters'.*