

Scriptures from New International Version unless noted

The Miserable Life

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, 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. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Philippians 1:12-26

How to Make Your Life Miserable…

1) **Wait to be joyful until your <u>circumstances</u> are just right.**

"I want you to know that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel."

Philippians 1:12

"…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."

Philippians 1:19

"…it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard… that I am in chains for Christ."

Philippians 1:13

***The Happiness Illusion*.**

I believe I'll be happy if I get the circumstances I desire - if the things that happen to me are the things I want to have happen to me.

The Fruit of the Spirit are conditions – a person's settled character.

Love: To will the good of another
Joy: A pervasive sense of well-being

2) **<u>Compare</u> yourself to other people.**

"...some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains."

Philippians 1:15-17

3) **Go it <u>alone</u>.**

I thank my God every time I remember you.

Philippians 1:3

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy...

Philippians 1:4

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart...

Philippians 1:7

God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:8

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...

Mark 10:35

"...encourage one another daily..."

Hebrews 3:13

4) **Adopt <u>pessimism</u> as a life orientation.**

"I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:20-21

"But what does it matter?"

Philippians 1:18