

# Paul's Fearless Witness and Sacrificial Love

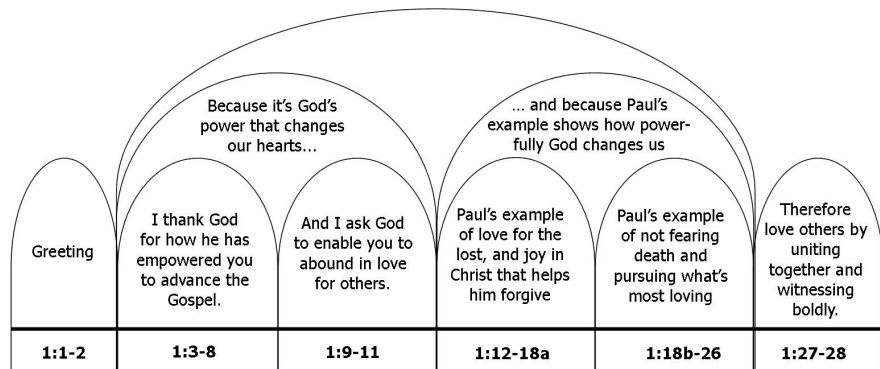
## Philippians 1:18-26

### Introduction

In verses 18-26 Paul gives us examples of his own fearless witness and sacrificial love.

The reason he does this is to show what God is able to do in us by his power.

So let's study these two examples –



### **First, Paul describes how he is fearless when facing death (1:18-21)**

The word "deliverance" in verse 19 can't mean Paul thinks he will be delivered from prison, because in verses 20-21 he considers the possibility that he will be killed.

So Paul is saying that he rejoices because he knows that through their prayers, and the work of the Spirit, he will be faithful to Christ even to death, and this will result in his final deliverance of being welcomed into heaven.

Paul shares this example so they will understand that God can do the same in them.

This also teaches us that fearlessness does not come from strong personalities, but it comes from knowing Jesus Christ. When we experience Christ as our life, and know that death will bring us more of him, we will be fearless.

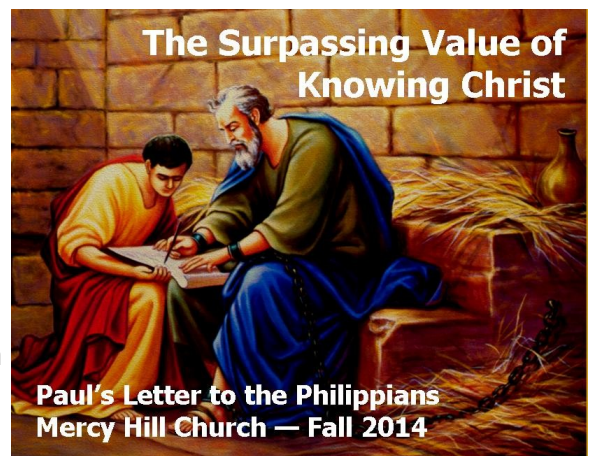
### **Second, Paul describes how he gladly chooses what benefits others (1:22-26)**

Paul tells his readers that he struggles with knowing which option he would prefer: life, which means continuing with them, or death, which means being with Christ.

In verse 25 Paul knows (by the Spirit's leading?) That God is calling him to stay alive and continue his ministry.

So why would Paul gladly choose this option? It's because God is giving him a heart of love – a heart whose greatest joy is to bring others joy, so they can see Christ (25).

Paul shares this example so we will see what God can do in us as well. Let's be encouraged, set our eyes on Christ, and step out in obedience trusting God to work.



## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

*(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)*

In the past, where did you think fearless witness came from? Can you see from verse 21 that it comes from knowing Christ, loving Christ, worshiping Christ? Have you had times in your life when knowing Christ filled you with boldness? Share about some of them.

Do you believe that God will enable you to become more bold in witness? Why or why not?

In light of verse 21, what's the most important step to take in order to grow in bold witness?

Share situations in your life now where you need more boldness. Take time tonight and pray for each other about these areas.

In the second example Paul shares how he gladly chooses what benefits others. What are some situations in which you recently have done this? What are some situations in which you recently have not done this?

Do you believe that God will enable you to grow in this kind of love? Why or why not?

What are some situations in which you need to become more loving? Take time tonight and pray for each other about these situations.

