

**INTRODUCTION**

Paul wants brethren (us) to **find joy in adversity**; otherwise, **discouragement will over-whelm us, and it will affect our other activities and relationships.**

"Things" happened to Paul before this imprisonment: (Acts 23:11; 2 Corinthians 11:23-27)

**PAUL'S 7 PRINCIPLES TO ENCOURAGE US IN ADVERSITY**

**1. OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE THE GOSPEL**

(v12) "actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel"

(2 Timothy 2:9) "for which I suffer as an evil doer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained"

**2. OPPORTUNITY TO PREACH AND TEACH**

(v13) "so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ"

(Acts 28:30-31) "Paul dwelt two whole years ... received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching ... no one forbidding him"

(Philippians 4:21-22) "brethren ... all the saints ... those who are of Caesar's household"

**3. OPPORTUNITY TO INSTILL COURAGE IN BRETHREN**

(v14) "and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear"

(Acts 8:1) "persecution" (v4) "went everywhere preaching the word"

**4. OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE THE CHARACTER OF OUR FRIENDSHIPS**

(v18) "What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached, and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice"

Paul could see those who supported him during this event, and also those who took advantage of his absence: (v15-16) "preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely"

**5. OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR CONFIDENCE**

(v19) "For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance ... "

Three things contributed to this hope: "your prayer" "the supply of the Spirit" and "my earnest expectation"

(v20) "now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death"

**6. OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW LIFE'S GOAL**

(v21) "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" also (Galatians 2:20)

**7. OPPORTUNITY TO SEE LIFE AND DEATH IN PERSPECTIVE: (v22-26)**

Paul is caught between two loves.

Paul presents his thoughts on balancing the benefits of living verses dying.