

May 17, 2026

Digging deeper: Philippians 1:18b-26 (Speaking Boldly with Joy)

Slide 1 (10 min)

According to Acts 9:16, Paul knew from the beginning that he would suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

Reread Philippians 1:15-20.

- In the Philippians context, what does Paul want to have “deliverance” from?
- What two things in verse 19 will *help* alleviate this pain for Paul?
- What *could* be a temptation for you, if others preached with jealousy (spite) and rivalry against the message of truth you delivered? (see verse 20)?

Slide 2 (7 min)

- After Paul was persecuted during his visit to Philippi, he traveled to Thessalonica. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6 and record Paul’s preaching motives and what he avoided.
- What circumstances or surroundings *might* cause *you* to shy away from speaking the truths of Christ Jesus or make the Gospel more “acceptable?”

Slide 3 (6 min)

Read Philippians 1:20-25 and 1 Thessalonians 2:8-12

- What did Paul’s “living his life to honor Christ” entail?
- Which of Paul’s traits inspires you to incorporate into your own life?

Observations:

Slide 1 (10 min)

According to Acts 9:16, Paul knew he would suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

Reread Philippians 1:15-20.

- In the Philippians context, what does Paul want to have “deliverance” from?
(The painful chains of oppression/harassment caused by the false teaching and the shame others might feel toward Paul the Apostle, who had been preaching powerfully, healing many, and is now in prison.)
- What two things in verse 19 will *help* alleviate this pain for Paul?
(believer’s prayers and the strength of Christ’s Spirit)
- What *could* be a temptation for you, if others preached with jealousy (spite) and rivalry against the message of truth you delivered? (see verse 20)?
(to get even, explode against them, worry, give up, be ashamed/regret, not be bold, and not bring honor to Christ in our lives by giving up and not being fruitful to the very end)

Slide 2 (7 min)

- After Paul was persecuted during his visit to Philippi, he traveled to Thessalonica. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6 and record Paul’s preaching motives and what he avoided. (He preached with pure motives, pleasing God, not people. He avoided flattery and the enticement of money/greed.)
- What circumstances or surroundings *might* cause you to shy away from speaking the truths of Christ Jesus or make the Gospel more “acceptable?” (trying not to offend people, water down the Gospel, not rock the boat – this might happen in families or the workplace)

Slide 3 (6 min)

Read Philippians 1:20-25 and 1 Thessalonians 2:8-12

- What did Paul’s “living his life to honor Christ” entail?
(Being honorable, fruitful, helping others grow and experience the joy of their faith, toiling to earn a living, preaching God’s Good News, being devout, honest, and faultless, he was selfless.)
- Which of Paul’s traits inspires you to incorporate into your own life? (working faithfully with my time, gifts, and resources to give it all for Christ; having the attitude that everything I have belongs to the Lord.)