

## Wasting Our Tomorrows



David Wilkerson (1931-2011) February 23, 2021

As Paul faced his court trial in Rome, he was held under horrible conditions (see Philippians 1:13-14). He was guarded around the clock by soldiers of the Praetorian guard, his feet chained to a soldier on either side. These men were crude, hardened, cursing frequently. They'd seen it all, and to them in their line of work, every jailed man was a guilty criminal, including Paul.

Think about it: Here was a man who had been very active, loving to travel the open road and high seas to meet and fellowship with God's people. Paul drew his greatest joy from visiting the churches he had established throughout that region of the world. But now he was chained down, literally bound to the hardest, most profane men alive.

Paul had two options in his situation. He could spin out into a morbid, sour mood, asking the same self-centered question over and over: "Why me?" He could crawl into a pit of despair, reasoning himself into a hopeless depression, completely consumed with the thought, "Here I am bound up, with my ministry shut down, while others out there enjoy a harvest of souls. Why?"

Instead, Paul chose to ask, "How is my present situation going to bring glory to Christ? How can great good come out of my trial?" This servant of God made up his mind: "Now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death" (Philippians 1:20).

Paul's attitude demonstrates the only way we can be emancipated from our dark pit of unhappiness and worry. You see, it's possible to waste all our tomorrows anxiously waiting to be delivered out of our suffering. If that becomes our focus, we'll totally miss the miracle and joy of being emancipated in our trial.

Consider Paul's statement: "But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel" (Philippians 1:12). Paul is saying, "Don't pity me or think I'm discouraged over my future. And please don't say my work is finished. Yes, I'm in chains and suffering, but the gospel is being preached through it all."

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