Rejoicing In Chains

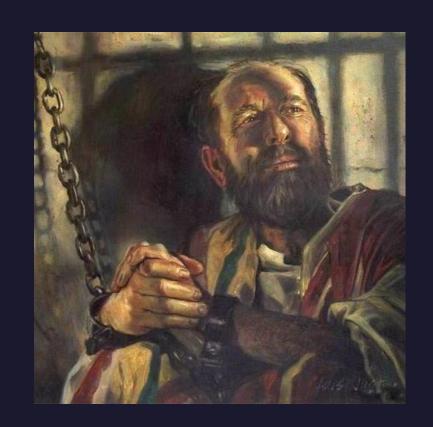
"what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel"



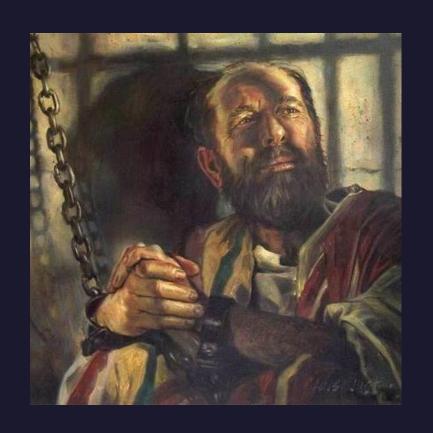
Seeing Purpose in Our Chains

 Lacking purpose always leads to a lack of joy

Ecclesiastes 4:3 (ESV) — 3 But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

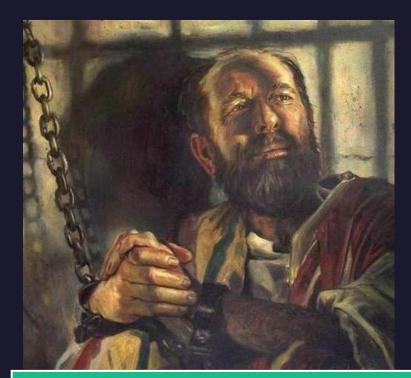


Seeing Purpose in Our Chains Philippians 1:12 (CSB) — Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually advanced the gospel...



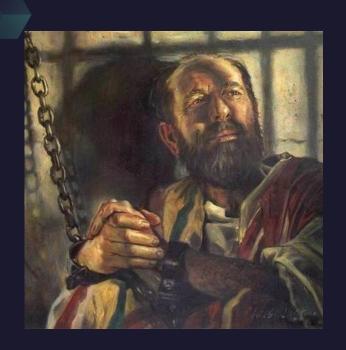
What Are Your "Chains"?

- Difficult season of parenting?
- Job you hate?
- Loneliness/singleness?
- Fractured relationships?
- Physical trials?



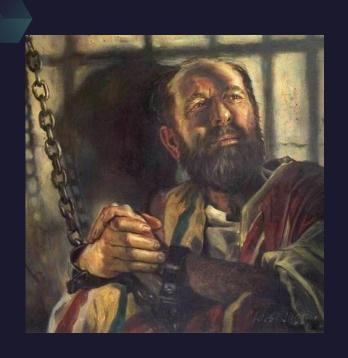
What if our "chains" are opportunities?

Chains of Opportunity



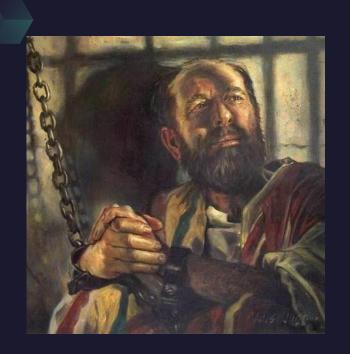
"Paul's focus on Christ made him an expert at reframing his experience so that the negative became a positive. His chains could easily be viewed as a tragic end to a brilliant career, a restriction of a gifted apostle, and an outrageous injustice against a Roman citizen. Instead of being led by his chains to a negative outlook, Paul used them to lead his guards to the knowledge of Christ."

Seizing the Chain of Opportunity



- Philippians 1:13 (CSB) 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is because I am in Christ.
- Philippians 4:22 (CSB) 22 All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

Seizing the Chain of Opportunity



Philippians 1:14 (CSB) —
14 Most of the brothers
have gained confidence in
the Lord from my
imprisonment and dare
even more to speak the
word fearlessly.

"courage is contagious. The timid catch boldness from the brave."

Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley 1555, Oxford "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man. We shall this day light such a candle by God's grace in England as I trust shall never be put out!"



Paul Rejoiced in His Chains!



Philippians 1:18 (CSB) — **18** What does it matter? Only that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice....