

# 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....**