

**Happy Living
Part 2**

Happiness Busters

*I want you to know dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. **13** For everyone here, including all the soldiers in the palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. **14** And because of my imprisonment, many of the Christians here have gained confidence and become more bold in telling others about Christ.*

***15** It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. **16** They love me and they know the Lord brought me here to defend the Good News. **17** But there are those who do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. **18** But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice no matter what. **19** For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.*

***20** And I live in eager expectation and hope. I want my life to always honor Christ whether I live or die. **21** For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. **22** If I live, it just means more fruitful years of service for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. **23** I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. **24** But for your sake, it is better that I continue to live.*

***25** Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. **26** And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.*

27 But whatever happens, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. 28 Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. 29 For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. 30 We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.

Philippians 1:12-30

But whatever happens, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. V. 27

HOW TO BE HAPPY NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS

I want you to know dear brothers and sisters that everything that has happened to me has helped spread the good news. V. 12

I've got my plan but God has what? God has a bigger plan

Everyone here, including all the soldiers in the palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. V. 13

And because of my imprisonment, many of the Christians here have gained confidence and become more bold in telling others about Christ. V. 14

It's true that some preach Christ because they're jealous and quarrelsome. V. 15

Others preach Christ from genuine good will and they do so out of love. And they know that God has given me the work of defending the gospel. V. 16

Others preach Christ insincerely from a spirit of selfish ambition. V. 17

Other people just want to stir up more trouble for me. They want to add to my pain while I'm in prison. V. 17

What others do doesn't really matter. The important thing is that in every way, whether for the right or wrong reason, the message of Christ is being shared. So I am happy and will continue to be happy. V. 18

I'm not going to let anybody steal my joy

I will continue to rejoice for I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, all that has happened will all turn out for my deliverance. V. 19

I can't control what other people do to me

I can't control what other people do around me

But I can control how I respond

If by continuing to live I can do more worthwhile work for Christ then I'm not sure what I should choose. I'm pulled in two directions. I want very much to leave this life and be with Christ, which is a far better thing. But for your sake it's much more important that I remain alive. I am sure of this, that it is more important that I remain alive. So I know I must stay on with you all so that I can add to your progress and your joy in the faith. V. 22

For me to live is Christ and to die is gain. V. 21