



# The Drone Series

## A 52-Week Journey Through the Bible

Soaring through the pages of the Bible and embarking on an inspiring weekly journey from **Genesis to Revelation!** Dive into transformative insights that will uplift your spirit and deepen your understanding. Experience the power of scripture like never before!

*We understand that spiritual growth can be a deeply personal journey, and we invite you to join us as we explore a different book of the Bible each week. It's a wonderful opportunity to reflect and find inspiration together. We encourage you to invite a friend to join us, whether in person or online, so we can support each other on this meaningful path.*

## Background Matters

From his own experiences Paul wanted the believers at Philippi to learn an important truth: there are no accidents with God. Instead of Paul's ministry being curtailed because of his bondage, it was being advanced.

The advance came partly because **the whole palace guard**, as well as others, were hearing about Christ (vv. 12–13). The “palace guard” (*praitōriō*) likely refers to the praetorian guard, made up of Roman soldiers. Though Paul resided in his own rented facility (Acts 28:30), he was guarded by these soldiers all the time. The custom was for a prisoner to be chained at the wrist to a soldier.

All in Rome who came in contact with Paul heard about Christ. It was well known that he was not under guard for being a lawbreaker. Instead he was **in chains for Christ** (Phil. 1:13). In an effort to silence the truth, the authorities had incarcerated the one who spoke it, but their plan did not work.

Paul's incarceration had another effect: it encouraged those who had been reluctant about speaking for Christ (v. 14). Large numbers of believers became bold for Christ when they saw how God was spreading the gospel through Paul. The positive response Paul received in the face



of opposition caused others to speak **more courageously and fearlessly** for Christ. Paul's confinement was doing what his circumstances outside of prison could never do.

1:15–18. The people who were emboldened to speak God's Word were of two kinds. Some preached Christ **out of envy and rivalry**, but others preached Him **out of good will** (v. 15). Those who preached out of good will did so **in love** (v. 16), knowing that Paul was in chains because of his **defense of the gospel**. The word "defense" is the Greek *apologia*, also used in verse 7.

The group that preached Christ out of envy and rivalry (v. 15) had **selfish ambition** (v. 17) as their motive. They purposely wanted to **stir up trouble** for Paul while he was in bondage. They were probably not Judaizers, as some suppose, because Paul said they were preaching Christ, though insincerely. The Judaizers believed that keeping the Old Testament Law was a means of salvation. Paul had sternly rebuked them as preachers of "a different gospel" (Gal. 1:6). However, since he did not accuse these in Philippi of presenting "another gospel," it seems that they were believers who for some unknown reason did not love the apostle or appreciate his work. Though they were doctrinally sound, they promoted themselves.

What rejoiced Paul's heart was that Christ was being preached, even though it was from wrong motives by some (Phil. 1:18). Since the content of the preaching was the same for both groups, the apostle could rejoice. He did not **rejoice** because there was a faction among members of Christ's body, for this brought him grief. Instead, it was the preaching of Christ that brought him joy.

2. settled convictions (1:19–26)

1:19. As a man of convictions, Paul shared his assurance that his fetters would eventually result in his **deliverance**. The Greek word translated "deliverance" here was used in different ways in the New Testament. It often meant spiritual deliverance—salvation, being born again. Here (v. 19) Paul used the word to refer to either the final stage of his salvation (cf. Rom. 5:9) or future vindication in a Roman court. It seems unlikely that he had his release in mind since in the next two sentences he wrote of the real possibility of his near death.

The bases on which the apostle's assurance rested were the **prayers** of the saints and the **help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ** (Phil. 1:19). He knew he could count on the Philippians' prayers, and also on the Holy Spirit's ministry (cf. Rom. 8:26–27). "Help" (*epichorēgias*) carries the meaning of "support," much as a ligament provides support in a physical body. (This Gr. word is used in the NT only here and in Eph. 4:16.)

1:20. Paul was not sure whether he would experience release or martyrdom for his faith. He was certain of one thing though, that he wanted Christ to be **exalted** in his **body** either way (cf. "in the body," vv. 22, 24). This was Paul's expectation and hope. The apostle also knew full well that it would take courage to face death with the proper attitude. **Eagerly expect** is the translation of a unique word. It describes straining one's neck to catch a glimpse of something that is ahead. (*Apokaradokia*, a noun, is used only here and in Rom. 8:19.) Paul's concern was not what would happen to him but what testimony would be left for his Lord. Release would allow him to continue preaching Christ. But martyrdom would also advance the cause of Christ.

1:21. Paul's main purpose in living was to glorify Christ. Christ was the essence of his life. Yet Paul knew that if he were martyred, Christ would be glorified through the promotion of the gospel which would result from his testimony in death. And Paul himself would benefit, for death



would result in his being with Christ (v. 23). The words **to die** suggest the act of dying, not the state of death.

1:22–24. The apostle’s seeming frustration of mind is apparent in these verses. He knew if he could **go on living** there would certainly be fruit from his labor (v. 22). God would bless his work and continue to use him as He had in the past. Yet if Paul had a choice between going on living or dying for Christ, he was at a loss as to how to decide. He simply did not know which to choose. Of course the choice was really not up to him anyway.<sup>1</sup>

***In This Week’s Drone Series***, we delve into *Philippians chapter 1*, discovering the fruit that can emerge from difficult circumstances and the fiery challenges we face. No one is exempt from life's painful moments; rather, those who navigate these storms with faith will thrive for the exaltation of Christ.

*In the crucible of life's most intense challenges, faith can transform despair into hope. This journey explores how, even in the midst of the fiercest trials, unwavering belief can ignite the spirit and reveal the profound strength that lies within. Through the lens of the Gospel, we learn to embrace our challenges, understanding that they can lead us to a deeper connection with the divine. This exploration invites you to discover how trials, when viewed through the prism of faith, can become powerful catalysts for transformation and growth.*

## **Chains with a Gospel Twist:** **\*\*Unleashing Faith Amid Fiery Trials\*\*** **Philippians 1:12–30**

Topics: Believers, Circumstances, Courage, Death, Faith, Gospel, Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, Joy, Life, Motives, Prayer, Reputation, Salvation, Suffering

**Study Guide 36** *This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your **growth in the Word**. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.*

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<sup>1</sup> Robert P. Lightner, “Philippians,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 650–652.



**Open It, Mondays.** Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1. \*How often do you watch TV shows or read articles about celebrities?

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**Explore It,** Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2. How was Paul's ministry affected by his bondage? (1:12–14)

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3. \*Why was Paul being talked about? (1:13)

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4. How did Paul's incarceration affect the testimony of others? (1:14)

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5. Why did some people preach Christ out of envy and rivalry? (1:15–17)

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6. Why did some people preach Christ in love? (1:15–16)

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7. \*What made Paul rejoice? (1:18)

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8. Why did Paul expect to be delivered from his predicament? (1:19)

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9. How did Paul expect to be delivered? (1:19–20)

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**Explore It, Wednesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.**

10. What was Paul's main purpose in living? (1:21)

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11. \*What were Paul's convictions about living and dying? (1:22–24)

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12. Why did Paul think he would remain alive? (1:24–26)

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13. What did Paul want the believers to do? (1:27–30)

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14. How did Paul tell the Philippians to face opposition? (1:27–30)

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15. How did Paul encourage the Christians at Philippi? (1:29)

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**Get It Thursdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.**

16. \*How did Paul's notoriety work to his advantage?

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17. How would you like the reputation of being a fearless Christian?

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18. To what degree do you share Paul's passion for the gospel?

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19. For what do you truly live?

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20. Whom do you know who is suffering for Christ right now?

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21. \*What's the toughest thing you've had to experience as a Christian?

**Drive it Home, Fridays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.**

22. What are you willing to risk to have the reputation of being a fearless Christian?

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23. What about your life-style do you most want to change in your desire to live for Christ?

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24. What step toward dedicating every area of your life to Christ can you take today?

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25. \*What can you do today to encourage someone who is suffering because of his or her faith?

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*Experiencing the Power of Scripture Like Never Before! 2025*

Download your study guide at: [Unlockingthetruth.us](https://Unlockingthetruth.us)