

PHILIPPIANS (COUNT IT ALL JOY)

PROGRAM 5 (#912090)

WEEK 1 (#912318)

©2012 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

a Production of

Precept Ministries International

P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218

1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: Philippians (Count It All Joy)

TITLE: Program 5 – For The Gospel!

FRIDAY

OPEN

Do you really believe in hell? Do you really believe the place exists? Do you really believe that there is a lake of fire that follows hell where the worm dies not and the fire is not quenched? Do you really believe that people are going to be in torment forever and ever and ever? If you believe that you're not among the norm, but you are right. And if you're right what are you doing with that belief?

PART ONE

Years ago God gave me a drama and it's called the Quick and the Damned. It's a one-man show so to speak and I ended up doing it at the Tivoli Theater here in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It was a sold out house. We advertised it. Precept Ministries advertised it - all this billboard space. And it had a picture of me on the front and it said The Quick and the Damned. They made small posters and people put them in their cars and one of my friends told me this:

somebody from work at TVA, the Tennessee Valley Authority came up to them, looked at the sign on the car, and I don't want to offend you, but this is what they said, they said: "What in the hell is that about?" And my friend turned and looked at them and said, "That's what it's about." It was about the quick, the alive and the damned, those that were going to go to hell when they died and spend eternity in the lake of fire. Now you know it's not a very popular topic. And as a matter of fact most people do not really believe in a literal hell. They believe that when we die we're all going to be happy.

We're all going to be in this blissful place. But that's not what the Word of God says, and that's why the gospel of Jesus Christ is so essential. Because the gospel of Jesus Christ is that which delivers a person from the destiny of hell and the lake of fire where the **"...worm dies not and the fire is not quenched."** (Mark 9:44) Let's go to Philippians, chapter 1. We've looked at Paul's prayer and we have seen that Paul's desire for them in that prayer was in verse 11, that they would be **"...filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God."** (Philippians 1:11) Righteousness, Beloved, is the hallmark. It's the stamp of true Christianity. In other words, what we do is we once lived unrighteously, now we live righteously. You say, "Who's to say what's right and wrong?" Good question: the answer is God. Where do you find what's right and wrong? You find it in the Word of God. And the Word of God is all about the gospel of God, the good news of salvation that rescues you from a life of unrighteousness so that you can live righteously according to God's standard. So now we come in verse 12 in Philippians 1, and he says. **"Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel."** (Philippians 1:12) Now remember I told you that the gospel is a key word. As a matter of fact, if you have not downloaded the study guide for Philippians you need to go to preceptsforlife.com, that's preceptsforlife – just spell it as one word – .com, and download the free study guide. And we'll show you in there how we

mark the word gospel. Now the word gospel is mentioned for the first time in chapter 1, verse 5. He says, **“In view of your participation...,”** speaking of the Philippians, **“...in the gospel from the first day until now.”**

(Philippians 1:5) Now he’s going to pick up the word gospel again. And he says, **“Now I want you to know, brethren...,”** verse 12, **“...that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel.”**

(Philippians 1:12) Now what does he mean by the “progress of the gospel?”

He means that that good news, that’s what gospel means, that that good news is being heard more and more and more, that it’s reaching more and more people, that it’s reaching more and more cities, it’s reaching more and more nation groups, and so the gospel is progressing. And we know from Acts, chapter 1 that the gospel began in Jerusalem. Let’s go to Acts, chapter 1 and let’s see what he’s saying in Acts, chapter 1, it’s an account of what happens after the death and burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Acts is written by Luke who wrote the gospel of Luke. And it’s a continuation of the things that happened until Jesus Christ was taken up and the apostles began to take the gospel. And this is what it says in verse 8. He says, **“But you shall receive power...,”** Jesus is speaking, **“...when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem,...in Judea and Samaria, and even to the uttermost parts of the earth.”** **(Acts 1:8, KJV)** So they were to be a witness of Jesus. Well you say, “What does that have to do with the gospel?” Well the gospel is all about Jesus. And I want you to go to another epistle that Paul wrote, which is 1 Corinthians. In 1 Corinthians, chapter 15; this is the chapter that explains the gospel and the resurrection of the body from death into life, and from this life into heaven. So in 1 Corinthians, chapter 15 he says in verse 1: **“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preach to you....”** **(1 Corinthians 15:1a)** The gospel, you would mark it with a megaphone, which, which is the gospel; you’d mark it with another megaphone. **“...Preached to you, which also you received....”** **(1 Corinthians 15:1b)** You also receive what?

The gospel. So the **“which”** there is a pronoun for the gospel. **“...In which also you stand....”**(1 Corinthians 15:1c) So the “which,” again, is the gospel. In the gospel, **“in which you stand, by which....,”** gospel, **“...you are saved if you hold fast the word....,”** the gospel, **“...which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.”** (1 Corinthians 15:1-2) So the gospel not only has to be heard, but it has to be believed. It has to be received. You have to continue to stand in the gospel and then it saves you. And he goes on to say, **“For I...,”** and he’s explaining the gospel now, **“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received....”** What did he receive? He received the gospel. What is it? **“...That Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures.”** (1 Corinthians 15:3) According to what scriptures? Well all they had was the Old Testament. So the Old Testament is all about Jesus Christ, who was coming, the Messiah who was going to die for our sins, as a substitute for us. Because **“...the wages of sin is death....”** (Romans 6:23a) Because **“the soul that sinneth, it shall surely die.”** (Ezekiel 18:4) There’s the first death and then there’s the second death. The first death we’re all born in sin and, and because we’re born in sin we’re dead in our trespasses and sins. The second death is when we’re cast into the lake of fire, when we move from hell to the lake of fire **“where the worm dies not and the fire is not quenched.”** (Mark 9:44) So what he’s saying is this is the first point of the gospel, the good news. The good news is that Jesus died for your sins, your sins, Beloved. Get it. Make it personal, your sins. You’re a sinner. You and I are born in sin. **“...In sin did my mother conceive me,”** David wrote. And by **“one man sin entered into the world and death passed upon all men in that all have sinned.”** (Romans 5:12) So He **“...died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”** (1 Corinthians 15:3) But that’s just the first point. Now what proves that He died for our sins? Well it says, **“And that He was buried....”** Burial proves that He died, all right. No, He didn’t swoon and wake up you know. He didn’t go into a coma and wake up. He didn’t faint and wake up. He died and He was

buried. Then it says, **“...And that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians 15:4)** So the resurrection is in the Old Testament also. One picture form that it’s in is in the picture of Jonah. And Jesus will later say, you know, **“As Jonah was in the belly of a great fish three days and three nights so will the Son of man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.” (Matthew 12:40)** So the good news is this, that Jesus died for your sins. The Bible tells us in Acts chapter 2 that He descended into hell, but the third day He rose again from the dead according to the scriptures. So death had no power over Him. He conquered sin by dying for it and shedding His blood. He conquered death by being raised again from the dead. In Romans the last verse in Romans 4 says this: **“He was raised again because of our justification.” (Romans 4:25)** This is the gospel that you as a sinner can be saved from your sins’, that you can live a life of righteousness, not unrighteousness, that you can live according to what God says is right. That’s the wonderful good news. And Paul says, if you go back to Philippians, Paul says that he is set for the greater progress of the gospel. He wants this good news to get out wherever it can. And so he says now I want you to know brethren that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel. You know what, Beloved? Whatever your circumstances are, if you believe God, if you are walking in the way that God says walk, if you are rejoicing always, and again I say rejoice, if you are doing this, do you know what? That whatever your circumstance God can use that for the greater progress of the gospel. He can use it to show people, hey, you live a different life than most of the world, and you live life on a higher plane and they want it. And they want to hear about the gospel. We’ll talk about it more right after the break.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. You know, as we talk about hell, as we talk about the lake of fire that follows hell, when death and Hades give up the dead and they stand at the great white throne of judgment, then they're going to be cast into the lake of fire where the **"...worm dies not and the fire is not quenched."** (Mark 9:44) In other words, Paul understood that all people are eternal, that they're going to live forever and ever in one place or the other, in heaven or in hell in the lake of fire. And knowing that, you can understand that the passion of his heart would be that as many people as possible would hear the good news. And that's what we want from this program: for people to hear the good news. And yet the best way to evangelize a person to show them hey, there is only one way to God, it is a straight way, ["it is a narrow way and the way is Jesus. And apart from Him there is no truth. And apart from Him there is no life. And apart from Him no man can come to the Father except through Jesus Christ."] (PARAPHRASE John 14:6) It doesn't matter who you are. It doesn't matter what you believe. If it's not what God says about Jesus Christ then you're going to perish. Now understanding this caused Paul to be consumed with getting out the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Philippians, having tasted the difference that Christ made in their life, having been assured of eternal life, having seen and experienced the affection of Jesus Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the comfort and everything that comes with salvation, they were set on the defense and confirmation of the gospel. The defense is this and we saw this when he mentioned it in verse 7 of chapter 1. He says since **"...in both my imprisonment and the defense and confirmation of the gospel...."** (Philippians 1:7) There were people that would come along and distort the gospel. There were people that would come along and say, oh well, you can get to God any way you want to, but Jesus Christ is just the best way. That was a distortion of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Or if they said, "Hey you can earn your way to heaven." You can do it by good works. That was a

distortion of the gospel of Jesus Christ. So Paul is set on the defense of the gospel. And the confirmation of the gospel is the change that happens in people's lives as a result. So Paul is saying to those at Philippi, yes I'm in prison, but I want you to know that my circumstances, my being in prison, has not stopped the gospel. Rather it has allowed for the greater progress of the gospel. And the reason it is, is in verse 13: **"So that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the...praetorian guard..."(Philippians 1:13)** I mean remember we saw Paul stayed in his own rented quarters for two years as a prisoner of Rome. He was chained to a guard from the Praetorian Guard, the special elite group. Well those men were chained to him. His house was opened to everybody. Those people would come, Jews would come that did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah and he would reason with them. Well this guard would hear it; he would hear everything that Paul was doing. If Paul was writing a letter to Ephesus or writing a letter to the Philippians, they could read the letter because they're standing over him. They're the guard. And so they're getting this good news. So here are people that are hearing the gospel that never would have if Paul had not been in prison. Beloved, Joni Eareckson Tada is a very precious friend of mine. She and Ken are just dear and I love her, and she's such an example of a godly, godly woman. She's one of my hero's or heroines of the faith. And Joni is an avid student of the Word of God. In fact she said Precept caused a problem in her marriage because she wanted to do her Precept lesson on Monday night when they got married and that was football night, so they had to make a different arrangement. And Ken says, "Now I love doing Precept." But when you look at Joni she's imprisoned in a body that will not work. She's paralyzed from the neck down. But her imprisonment in that body has turned out for the greater progress of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Because people see that woman, they see that there is no bitterness. They see that no miraculous healing has happened to her, and yet here is a woman who eats and drinks

and sleeps Jesus Christ. Here is a woman who has taken her adversity and used it to reach handicapped people all throughout the world. Here is a woman that is set on the progress of the gospel of Jesus Christ. So whatever your imprisonment, don't look at it as bars and chains. Look at it instead, as a platform for the gospel. And so he says, **"...My imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole Praetorian Guard and to everyone else, and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear."** (Philippians 1:13-14)

In other words, as I look at Joni and I'm sitting here with a broken bone in my foot and I can't walk for four weeks, Joni for most of her life since she was a teenager has been unable to move any part of her body, except she can swing her arms because of a muscle that was preserved for her, but otherwise she can't move. And so I look at her and I see what she can do, can I handle a wheelchair for four weeks? I certainly can. I've got an example set before me. And what those people saw is here's a man in prison for the cause of Jesus Christ, who is rejoicing, who is not shut up, who is reaching a group of people that others could not reach, and that gives them courage and that gives them boldness to go out and to reach others. So just know, Beloved, that whatever your imprisonment, whatever it looks like behind bars, or outside of bars, but still chained in some sort of a circumstance or situation, can be for the furtherance of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Now he says, **"Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but also some do it out of good will."** He says, **"The latter do it out of love..."**, so you want to mark love again, **"...knowing that I'm appointed for the defense of the gospel."** (Philippians 1:15-16)

In other words, what they're saying is this: Paul's life is consumed with this good news. This good news that rescues men from eternal damnation. This good news that turns them from death to life, from the power of Satan to the kingdom of God, from darkness to light. This, this good news that rescues

men from eternal torment and gives them eternal joy and eternal peace in the presence of God in the new kingdom, in the new heavens and the new earth. This is, this is the gospel. And if Paul's set for it and he's in chains and he can't move, then I'm his legs and I'm his mouth and I'm going forward and I'm following my hero and I'm picking up the torch. I'm picking up the baton and I'm going to run and I'm going to light the way. That's what he's saying. And he says these people are doing it out of love, out of love for Paul, but out of love for God, and they've found courage. But then he says the others, **"The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment."** (Philippians 1:17) Well what's the bottom line? **"...Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. And yes, I will rejoice."** (Philippians 1:18) I don't care what the motive is. My passion is the gospel of Jesus Christ because it brings life out of death. It brings light out of darkness. It brings hope out of despair. That's my passion is that men everywhere might know Jesus Christ. So however He's preached, whatever the motives I'm content. What about you Beloved? What's your passion? Where does the gospel stand in your life?