

Sermons: "Free at last",
Thank God, I can be
Free at last"

Text: Principians 1:1-11

Supporting text:

Heb. 13:6 - Heb. 11:6 - Heb. 4:16

Phil. 4:13 - John 14:6 - Acts 5:29

Prm. 1:9 - 10 & 11 - Prm. 4:11-12 & 13

Invitation # "Became on Me"

Preached at/Date

4/6/97 walls 3:00pm

Chap. 9
of David

Let Me Ask, "How Confident
are you in God?"

How do you face Crisis?

Let Me tell you, These
are Questions we need
to consider carefully =

Every one of us have faced
a Crisis, And the way we
handled it, Says a lot
about our Confidence in
God =

The Apostle Paul Says in
So many ways, "When a Crisis
comes, I Turn it Over to
God" // He's Never failed me
yet, And I don't expect
Him to do it in the
Future"

Oh My Soul, Don't we need
to do that //

Would you open your Bibles
to PHILIPPIANS Chapter 1 And
in a little while we will be
Reading Verses 1 thru 11 -

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11 (not yet)

Every time I read this word
from the Apostle Paul, I am
amazed //

here is a man

writing with confidence //

a man expressing love and

joy and appreciation in

every word //

A man in saying ^{circumstances}

~~new~~ ^{to what he says} ~~lets read~~ PHIL. 1:1-11 //

^{now} you would very likely get the
idea that this man doesn't
have a cone in the word //

that everything is going

his way //

Except for
one word Paul uses - //

Here is Paul talking about
wonderful memories he has //
and how thinking about
them bless his heart - //

But that one word we
mentioned a while back tells
us that ~~many~~ ^{have} something
in common with this man //

~~you see,~~ you see,

That one word reminds us
that Paul ^{knew} ~~knew~~ and felt
what you feel // Because that
one word reminds us that Paul
was writing from a Roman
prison - // The word is "BOUNDS" //

And it means "Tied up" or
"locked up" // It refers to
one who is incarcerated //
"a prisoner" //

Yet here is a man who can
"Rejoice anyway" // Here is a
man who can Express Confidence
and Assurance in the Promise
of God, And Does So //

Here is a man Believing
that He is Never Alone And
Claims Hebrews 13:6 And

2/

Hebrews 11:6 As well as
Hebrews 4:16

Here's what they say: "We have
this promise from the word
of God, "He will never leave
us nor forsake us" (Heb. 13:6)

Paul believed that "Without faith
it was impossible to please God"
That "Anyone coming to God
must believe that He is
God, and that He rewards
those who diligently seek
Him" (Heb. 11:6)

And because Paul believed
that, he could say "Let us
therefore, come **BOLDLY**
unto the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy
and find grace in time of
need" (Heb. 4:16)

Let Me Ask, How Many of you
Can Say With Paul, "I believe
all that / And because I do
I can rejoice in spite of
my sorrows / because I know
that this is not all there
is ? // Can you say it, and
mean it ? // If you can,
this poem will speak to
your heart and for you : :

HIS POWER WILL E'RE PREVAIL

No matter how the storms may rage,
upon the sea of life,
No matter how the waves may beat,
no matter what the strife;
The Lord is just the same today
as when He walked the sea,
And He can conquer every storm
That life may send to thee.

The waves are raging everywhere
and men are so distressed,
But all they need is found in Him
Who giveth perfect rest.
So cast your care upon the Lord
whose strength will never fail;
He calms the waves for your frail bark,
His power will e're prevail.

Can you say "Amen" to that? //

If you can, you can say with Paul "I can do all things //

I can endure all things //

Yea even chains a victory in all

things // Because of the

Strength I get from Christ

Jesus" (Phil. 4:13) Oh I hope to

That's your testimony //

Let me tell you my dear friends,

"We need to be / and can be

positive in our thinking and

lifestyle" //

Amen

Now,

Paul did not spend his time

in "boards" feeling sorry for

himself // He remembered

good times and good people //

And he said: "I thank God

for them" // A Refrain is just

"Remembering them and you" //

(Speaking of other believers)

And as Paul remembered, he

came to this conclusion:

"God is Now ^{Always} And has ^{been} at
work" // He was at work in
the Good Times. And He is
at work Now" // We have His word

Listeners / When Paul first began
to serve God, people were
afraid of Him // They opposed
Him // They did not trust
Him // And really had good
reasons //

But God had changed these
fears to appreciation // These
Concerns to Trust // These
Oppositions to Acceptance,
Here's why Because these people were
able to see "a new creature
in Christ" // a man who once
sought to take their lives, now
telling them how to save
their lives / And to experience
the abundant life here, And
assurance of eternal life over there"

1/ Listen, "Jesus will make a
Difference in Our Lives" // And
that Difference is a must
if we are to convince people
that "Jesus is the way / the
truth and the life" // And John
14:6 ^{says} "He is" // Amen

Now
My friends, we used the words
"Bands" a while back // And we
said it spoke of someone
being tied up // Locked up // And
Banded up // But in the time
God has allowed me to
be a pastor and minister
in this place, I've seen
more freedom in the life
and spirit of some men
"locked up" // And I have
seen in many people on
the outside = // In the "Free World"

Listen, you don't have to be
behind bars to be "Banded
up" // Or to be locked up =

There are people outside these walls looking for the answer
many of you have found //

There are people outside these walls looking for freedom and they are looking in the wrong

place - // But in spite of your words many of you are free in Christ //

Let me tell you my friends, this man Paul knew the answer // He was not too proud to admit that he had been wrong before //

And he was not too proud to say "Real joy" "Real peace" "Real fulfillment" did not come until I turned my life / my all, over to Jesus //

He said "Freedom was not a reality in my life until Jesus became Lord and head of my whole life" // Can you say it?

5/

Here was a man, filled with
Hope // Overcome with Joy // And
with love expressed in
every word, "I'm Free At Last"
even tho locked up / Bound up /
Crying out from a Prison Cell
"I Am a Winner" // "I Am
more than a Conqueror, because
I have Jesus with me" And
I thank God for the joy that
dwells in my heart // "I thank
God that I can spend my
time, remembering other saints
in prayer, rather than
looking at my situation" //

Paul said: "I thank God for
the confidence I have that
He doesn't stop before the
work is completed." He said:
"God began doing a good
work in you when you
gave you all to Him — And
He will continue it until it
is finished when Jesus comes again."

"And I have no doubt about it ="

Oh listen, I hope you have
the same confidence in God //

I hope that you will know
the joy that comes in being ⁱⁿ
and staying ⁱⁿ the center of
God's will" // There's no place like it //

you may not have known this, but
Paul was in prison because he
would not go back on the
commitment he had made
to Jesus // He was in bonds

because Jesus was Lord
of his life, and because he
continued to share what he
believed about the Gospel //

Paul was locked up because
he refused to stop preaching
the word of God // Because he

was willing to pay, even
as Peter had said, "We

must obey God, not man"
(Acts 5:29) And that's still true

6/ But let me tell you, "We Just Be
Sure that We've heard from
God" Amen

Happy Prayers were part of
Paul's prison life // They were
Not prayers ~~to~~ ^{FOR HIS} ~~to~~ Released //
Not filled with questions
like, "God, why did you let
it happen" // They were never
Self centered = //

They were prayers filled with
Acknowledgment of who God
was // who Jesus was //

They were prayers filled
with concern for others //
Prayers based with love
for others = //

Let me tell you, Paul knew the
Difference between Agape Love
and Philos Love = And He
Spoke of Agape Love —

Agape Love, is
The Word that Describes the
Love God has And Shows us
for us —

Oh But Listen / We could
Not Speak of Agape Love,
Until He Came to know
it / And allowed the power
of the Holy Spirit to
produce "Agape Love" in Him //
And before you And I can
Share "Agape Love" / We must
Experience it / And allow the
Holy Spirit to produce it in
us —

Listen my friends / There is only
one thing that is coming to
change society, "It's a love
expressed by us, that was
first expressed by God" //

Now you've heard as I have,
The President speaking often of
building bridges into the next
century —

7/ I hate to say it / But the
budget he talks about building
and the materials he talks
about using won't stand the
test - // They won't carry the
load - //

You see

① Unless hatred is attracted by
love. //

② And until prejudice is dealt
with by love - // And

③ until people start giving
rather than grabbing - //

④ And until people start reaching
out rather than reaching in
with Agape love // Budget
will still be barrier - //

Listen, Paul knew this // So He
prayed / Not for himself, But for
Others "This is my prayer for
you, that your love will
grow more and more"

"That you will have knowledge
And understanding with your
Love" (Phil. 1:9) // Then Paul
Said: "I pray that you will
see the difference between
good and bad and choose
good // That you will be pure
and without wrong as you
wait expectantly for Christ
to return // I pray that you
will do many good things
with the help of Christ, so
you might bring glory and
praise to God" (verse 10 and 11)

Now,
Here is a man, in prison,
Not knowing what the future
holds // But knowing in his
heart who holds the future //
Not praying for himself, but
for other believers —

Not using words a loser would
use // But words only a victor
could use in confidence —

Paul Spoke on a "Free Man" //
And He Was // Because Jesus
had Set Him Free" // And He's
still in the Business of Doing So

This man could say in all
Confidence, "I have learned to
be Satisfied or content, in
what ever state I Am" // I
have learned the Secret of
Being happy No Matter what
Happens // Because I can do
all things through Christ //
Because He Gives me Strength"
(Phil. 4:11-12 & 13)

Let Me Ask, How Many of us
Can say that in all Honesty? //
How many of us Can say
with Paul, "Jesus has set me
free, And I am free indeed" =

I wonder how many of us
Prayer are more for others,
than for ourselves?

11

I wonder how much of an iron
and effort is used to help to
lift up and encourage a
weaker brother?

I wonder how many are looking
forward to that wonderful day
when Jesus comes again -

Listen, your power letting many
not change but you can - Amend

The authorities may only know
your number, but clearly to
God, He knows your name - Amend

For believe can God play #161
(breathed on me)

Think about this, with Jesus as
servant of Lord, you can have
a greater impact on your
power, than it can have on
you - But you'll need our
Lord's help

would you bow your heads /
close your eyes - Ambling
yourself & shutting the world out

9/

And would you do what God did,
Concentrate on every way
you can think of how
God has been working in
your life - (And thank Him)

Then think of those people who
have made an impact on your
spiritual life - (And thank God
for them) (call their name out to Him)

Then
think about where you were ^{spiritually}
and where you are - And thank
God for bringing it about -

Now if you are saved, ask God
to show you His will for your
life - then commit yourself
to doing it - Right now

This altar would be
a wonderful place to
do it -

Ask God for a chosen a
Victory today -

11
Now if you are here, And
Never Admitted your Lostness/
Never admitted your need
to be saved //

Never admitted that you
believed Jesus could save
you if you Ashed = Never
cried out, "Oh Jesus, Please
save my soul = " Then you
need to do it Now —

And when you do, you need
to believe He saved your soul
And thank Him = Will you
do it —

And you do it? Then come tell
me so we can rejoice with
you?

My Friends, Jesus offers Victory //
Will you claim it today
If you will, you can say "Free at last"
Thank God, "I'm free at last" =