



**Title** | Necessary Building Blocks  
**Series** | Building a Better Church  
**Text** | Philippians 1:12-26  
**By** | Jeff Dover  
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# Sermon Notes

Philippians 1:12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the Gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. 15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill; 16 the former preach Christ from selfish ambitions, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice. 19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, 26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.  
*NKJV*

## Big Idea:

**Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. *NKJV***

## For Reflection and Application:

### Monday:

Take a few moments to reflect on the lives of Paul and Joseph, with all of their ups and downs. How did their experiences lead to joy and contentment? What lessons can we learn as we deal with our life's ups and downs?

### Tuesday:

What truths can we draw from the fact that both Paul and Joseph suffered, even though neither was doing wrong? As a matter of fact, both were doing right. How can their stories comfort us when we suffer wrong?

### Wednesday:

Not everything in life is black and white. Sometimes, we can see both good and bad in a situation. When we look at the preachers Paul spoke of who preached the Gospel with insincere motives, what can that tell us about experiences in our lives that have elements we like as well as elements we don't like? Can we be content and rejoice over something that we wouldn't define as fully, "good?"

### Thursday:

What happens when the outcome of a trial we're going through is not what we want? Have you ever experienced disappointment because of this? Is this a biblical viewpoint? Have you ever been angry at God because the outcome isn't what you wanted?

### Friday:

In verse 21, Paul says, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Achieving this state is quite possibly the highest expression of joy and contentment. We may not be fully able to live out our Big Idea yet, but we also recognize that we're learning to. What progress have you seen over the years in your own life that you can draw strength and comfort from?

### Daily Prayer:

Father, I thank You for Your promise that You will use everything in my life for good, a good that is according to Your purposes and plans, even if I don't see the good myself. I ask that You would remind me of this truth, and I pray that I would see my joy and contentment lead to me Bringing Life to my world. Amen.