

Program: SS Panel 2026 1 Q

Quarterly title: Christ In Philippians & Colossians

Quarterly author: Clinton Wahlen

Lesson Title: #01 Persecuted But Not Forsaken

Day title: Monday - Paul in Chains

For Lesson Dates: Date Here, 2026

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Note: This color and font = quarterly text

Note: This color and font = John Dinzey notes

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Question:

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NIL: Not in Lesson

MONDAY

December 29

Paul in Chains

READ

While in Macedonia, Paul mentions multiple imprisonments (2 Cor. 6:5, 2 Cor. 11:23, 2 Cor. 7:5). The first recorded instance was in Philippi (Acts 16:16–24). Later he was imprisoned in Jerusalem briefly before being transferred to prison in Caesarea.

Elsewhere, Paul mentions being “in my chains” (Philem. 10, 13, NKJV). Although under house arrest in Rome, he was chained to an elite Roman soldier. Ignatius, a Christian of the early second century who was chained up like this, described the soldiers as behaving like “wild beasts . . . who only get worse when they are well treated.”—Michael W. Holmes, ed., *The Apostolic Fathers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007), p. 231.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7–12. In this passage, what reveals how Paul was able to endure the trials he faced? What seems to be the focus of his life?

2 Corinthians 4:7-12 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, **that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.**

8 *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair;

9 **persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—**

10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death is working in us, but life in you.

Hebrews 13:5-6 5 *Let your conduct be* without covetousness; **be content with such things as you have.** For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord *is* my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

the fiery darts

Ephesians 6:16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one

No matter how hard life got, Paul was able to see a brighter side, and that gave him courage to bear up under stress. Despite Satan hurling everything he could, Paul knew he was not forsaken.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory,

REF:>>>Revelation 2:8-10 8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and *I know* the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan.

devil is about to throw some of you into prison - church in Smyrna

Revelation 2:10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

READ

Read 2 Corinthians 6:3–7. What spiritual resources did Paul have available to help him face these difficulties?

2 Corinthians 6:3-7 3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

4 But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,

5 in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;

6 by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,

7 by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

READ the darkened portions

Often, we may be tempted to look at our circumstances, our weaknesses, or our past failures and become discouraged. It's at times like these that we need to remember all the amazing provisions God has made for our success in battling evil. One of the most important is the Bible itself, "the word of truth," because we can learn from others' mistakes and also learn how these people have succeeded. Also, the Holy Spirit "makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church."—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 671.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

How can we, as laity or as clergy, always “commend ourselves as ministers of God” (2 Cor. 6:4, NKJV)? What does that mean?

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Additional Notes

First and Last Name 2024 Q2 L# Title of your days lesson
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1 Peter 3:12-17 12 For the eyes of the Lord *are* on the righteous, **And His ears *are open to their prayers***; But the face of the Lord *is* against those who do evil.”

13 And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?

14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

17 For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, **to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.**