

How Paul Lived in "Quarantine"

We are not all quarantined right now but I think whatever the situation we can learn from Paul's "Quarantine" which was much more permanent, long lasting and severe. So lets look at 5 things we can learn from Paul:

1. Paul Realized that being in "Quarantine" gave Him lots of time to Pray

First let's look at Paul's Second Letter to Timothy which He wrote in his 2nd time being imprisoned in Rome, knowing sensing that his life would come to an end soon (which it did)

2 Timothy 1:1-3 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,
2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. **3** I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

Ephesians 1:16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

What an amazing season to instead of bingeing media become people of prayer

Some in-house Events will be cancelled or moved online but the power of prayer is not Cancelled!

2. Paul Knew Temporary Distance did not mean disconnection from His People

2 Timothy 1:7 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Paul encouraged his people and churches through letters that had to be delivered hundreds of miles (Just Imagine if he had an iphone!)

IN THIS SEASON LETS ASK GOD: HOW TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS AND DISCIPLE OTHERS?

We encourage you to find creative ways to stay connected with people through this time including: Small gatherings (while taking the proper precautions), Video Conferencing Tools (Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, etc) , Messaging Apps, Social Media, Email, Phone Calls or even Mailing Letters (seriously do it :P)

Every hand we don't shake, may become a phone call we can place; Every hug we avoid, may become a verbal expression of warmth and concern; Every distance, however small, we place between ourselves and another may become a thought as to how we can be of help to that other, should the need arise.

- Gilbert Cangy

3. Paul Knew No "Quarantine" could rob His Purpose: To share the Good News and Reach others

Let's move on to His Letter written to the Church of Philippi
Philippians 2:12-24 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

Right now we are not meeting all together on the weekends but it can be a time when the church learns to love outside our walls in a whole new way!

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

1 John 3:17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

Right now can be a time we learn to BE the church like never before Events will Cancelled (or moved online) but The Church will not be cancelled

Church life should be as busy as ever!

4. Paul Knew In "Quarantine": I have a reason to rejoice

Philippians 2:15-18 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. 16 The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. 18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice

Paul says to be joyful or to rejoice 16 times in this short letter which was most likely written during his 1st time of imprisonment in Rome while awaiting his trial

5. Paul Knew His Home wasn't on Earth

Philippians 2:19-26 for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. 20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for **your progress and joy in the faith**, 26 so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

The source of Paul's joy, hope and peace were from God and were not based on material things or circumstances.

You could take everything away from Paul and He still had everything

Philippians 4:10-13 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. **11** I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. **12** I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

3 Action Points to Take:

1. Discuss together in your household what you learned today, talk about what stood out to you, and how you can apply this message to your lives
2. Pray together in your household to take these words to heart
3. Today or this week Call someone you know and encourage and pray for them, ask them if there is anything you can do for them!