

# Philippians 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

## Analysis

**But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel** (Γινώσκειν δὲ ὑμᾶς βούλομαι, ἀδελφοί, ὅτι τὰ κατ' ἐμὲ μᾶλλον εἰς προκοπὴν τοῦ εὐαγγελίου ἐλήλυθεν, Ginōskein de hymas boulomai, adelphoi, hoti ta kat' eme mallon eis prokopēn tou euangeliou elēlythen)—Boulomai ("I wish, desire") expresses deliberate intention to inform. Ta kat' eme ("the things concerning me") euphemistically refers to his imprisonment.

**Furtherance** (προκοπή, prokopē, "progress, advancement") was Stoic terminology for moral progress; Paul repurposes it for gospel advance. What seemed a setback—imprisonment—became strategic advantage. Mallon ("rather, instead") indicates surprising reversal: chains advanced rather than hindered the gospel. This introduces 1:12-26, Paul's reflection on how imprisonment served evangelism. Providence orchestrates apparent disasters for redemptive purposes.

## Historical Context

Paul's Roman imprisonment (c. AD 60-62) occurred under house arrest (Acts 28:16, 30), allowing visitors and correspondence. Far from ending ministry, it gave access to Caesar's household and Praetorian Guard—strategic mission fields otherwise unreachable. Ancient prisoners depended on friends for provisions, creating opportunities for gospel conversation.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What apparent setbacks in your life has God turned to 'furtherance of the gospel'?
2. How can you reframe hardships providentially rather than as random misfortune or injustice?
3. What gospel opportunities exist in your current constraints that wouldn't exist in easier circumstances?

## Interlinear Text

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Γινώσκειν δὲ ὑμᾶς βούλομαι ἀδελφοί ὅτι τὰ  
should understand But ye I would brethren that G3588  
G1097 G1161 G5209 G1014 G80 G3754

κατ' ἐμὲ μᾶλλον εἰς προκοπὴν τοῦ  
the things which happened unto me rather unto the furtherance G3588  
G2596 G1691 G3123 G1519 G4297

εὐαγγελίου ἐλήλυθεν  
of the gospel have fallen out  
G2098 G2064

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Timothy 2:9** (Parallel theme): Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

**Romans 8:28** (Parallel theme): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

**Romans 8:37** (Parallel theme): Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

**Acts 8:4** (Parallel theme): Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

**Esther 9:1** (Parallel theme): Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)

**Psalms 76:10** (Parallel theme): Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.

**Exodus 18:11** (Parallel theme): Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.