

Philippians 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

Analysis

So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places (ὥστε τοὺς δεσμούς μου φανεροὺς ἐν Χριστῷ γενέσθαι ἐν ὅλῳ τῷ πραιτωρίῳ, hōste tous desmous mou phaneros en Christō genesthai en holō tō praitōriō)—Phaneros ("manifest, clearly known") indicates Paul's chains became widely publicized, but qualified: **in Christ** (ἐν Χριστῷ, en Christō)—known as imprisonment for Christ, not for crime.

The palace (πραιτώριον, praitōrion) could mean the Praetorian Guard (imperial bodyguard, ~10,000 soldiers) or Caesar's household staff. Rotation of guards chained to Paul (Acts 28:16) exposed many to the gospel. **And in all other places** (καὶ τοῖς λοιποῖς πᾶσιν, kai tois loipois pasin) suggests evangelism rippled beyond official circles to general populace. What Rome intended to silence Paul instead amplified his witness to Caesar's own court.

Historical Context

The Praetorian Guard, elite soldiers stationed in Rome, served as imperial bodyguards and law enforcement. Prisoners awaiting Caesar's tribunal were chained to rotating guards 24/7. This forced captive audience heard the gospel repeatedly. 'Caesar's household' (4:22) included hundreds of slaves and freedmen managing imperial affairs—a strategic bridgehead for Christianity into Rome's power center.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How can your limitations become platforms for gospel witness like Paul's chains did?
2. What 'captive audiences' has God placed in your life who might otherwise never hear the gospel?
3. How do you ensure your suffering is recognized as 'in Christ' rather than ambiguous misfortune?

Interlinear Text

ὥστε τοὺς δεσμούς μου φανεροὺς ἐν Χριστῷ γενέσθαι
So that ^{G3588} **bonds** **my** **manifest** **in** **Christ** **are**
_{G5620 G1199 G3450 G5318 G1722 G5547 G1096}

ἐν ὅλῳ τῷ πραιτωρίῳ καὶ τοῖς λοιποῖς πᾶσιν
in **all** ^{G3588} **the palace** **and** ^{G3588} **other** **in all**
_{G1722 G3650 G4232 G2532 G3062 G3956}

Additional Cross-References

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.

Ephesians 3:1 (References Christ): For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

Acts 26:29 (Parallel theme): And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

Ephesians 6:20 (Parallel theme): For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Philippians 1:7 (Parallel theme): Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

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