

llSo, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

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14One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us...

²³And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely... ²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

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²⁷When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

—Acts 16:11-15, 23, 25-33 ESV

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THE CONTEXT
The Adversity

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"These men are...disturbing our city." —Acts 16:20 ESV

"Whenever Christianity attacks vested interest, trouble follows."
—William Barclay

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The greatest question anyone can ever ask: "What must I do to be saved?"

THE CARRY-OUT

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How Do We Advance in Adversity?

Be Confident

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. —Philippians 1:3-6 ESV

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l⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, l⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, l⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

-Philippians 2:14-16 ESV

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13Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.—Philippians 3:13-15 ESV

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How Do We Advance in Adversity?

Be Transient

²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.

—Philippians 3:20-21 ESV

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Resilient = "able to recoil or spring back into shape after bending, stretching, or being compressed, able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions."

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⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

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⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

—Philippians 4:4-9 ESV

How Do We Advance in Adversity?

Be Content

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11Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13I can do all things through Him who strengthens me...

¹⁹And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 4:11-13, 19 ESV

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⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. —Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

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