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## Philippians Chapter One

In his commentary on *Philippians: Be Joyful*, Warren Wiersbe relates: **A double minded person is unstable in all their ways (James 1:8)**. Or, to use the old Latin proverb, “When the pilot doesn’t know what port he is heading for, no wind is the right wind.” The reason so many believers are upset by circumstances is because they don’t cultivate a single mind. **The apostle Paul** expresses this attitude of single-hearted devotion to **Messiah** like this: **For to me, life is the Messiah, and death is gain (1:21 CJB)**.



In **Chapter 1**, Paul discusses **his** difficult **circumstances** and faces them honestly. But **his** circumstances cannot rob **him** of **his joy** because **he** is not living to enjoy circumstances; **he** is living to serve **Yeshua Messiah**. **He** is **a man** with purpose, saying: **This one thing I do (3:13)**. **He** does not look at circumstances in themselves, but rather in relationship to **Yeshua Messiah**. **He** was not a prisoner of Rome; **he** was **the prisoner of Yeshua Messiah (Ephesians 3:1)**. The **chains he** wore were **his chains for Messiah (1:13)**. **He** was not facing a civil trial; **he** was **appointed for the defense of the Gospel (1:17 NKJV)**. **He** did not look at **Messiah** through **his** circumstances; rather, **he** looked at **his** circumstances through **Messiah . . .** and this changed everything.

When a believer is single-minded, he is concerned about the fellowship of the Gospel (**1:1-11**), the furtherance of the Gospel (**1:12-26**), and the faith of the



Gospel (1:27-30). **Paul** rejoiced in **his** difficult circumstances because they helped **him** strengthen **his** fellowship with other believers, gave **him** an opportunity to lead others to **Yeshua**, and enabled **him** to defend the Gospel before the courts of Rome. When you have the single mind, your circumstances will work *for* you, not *against* you.<sup>7</sup>