

Making Use of Your Chains
II Timothy 2:1-13; Phil 1:6,12-18

"Chains": "If it only weren't for _____..."

Hardship: Learn to Endure It - II Tim 1:8; 2:3,9-10; 4:5

- Not a sign of faithlessness, but a promise to the faithful - Jo 16:33

...we live in a fallen world - II Tim 3:12; Eph 6:12

- Endurance is not resignation - Heb 12:2

...we accept its temporary nature and that it is meant for us - Ja 1:2-4; II Tim 2:12

Hardship: Learn to Embrace It - II Tim 1:8

- When we embrace hardship as from God, we cannot be imprisoned by a lesser authority
- Heb 12:5-11; II Cor 12:7-10; II Cor 4:10-12

- When we embrace our "chains" they are never without profit - Ro 8:18; II Tim 4:6

Hardship: Learn to Exalt God in It - II Tim 1:8,12,16

- Are we prisoners to our circumstances or to the Lord of the Circumstances?

- We can lift our "chains" to God as a sacrifice of praise - I Thess 5:18; Eph 5:20; Phil 4:4;
Heb 13:15