

Philippians 1:12–14

A Reed-Kellogg Sentence Diagram With Notes

New American Standard Bible (2012 Translation)

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the Gospel,

¹³ so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,

¹⁴ and that most of the brothers and sisters, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

Diagrams follow on the pages that follow — one per verse.

The Sentence

Philippians 1:12–14 is one sentence: a single independent clause carrying three subordinate clauses and their phrases.

Independent (main) clause — v. 12

“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters ...”

- **Subject / verb:** I — want
- **Adverb:** Now
- **Noun of direct address:** brothers and sisters
- **Infinitive phrase (direct object):** “you to know” — you is its subject; the two that-clauses below are its objects

Adverb clause of result — v. 13

“... so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else ...”

- **Subject / linking verb:** imprisonment — has become
- **Subject complement:** known, modified by the adverb well
- **Prepositional phrases (adjective):** in the cause → of Christ
- **Prepositional phrases (adverb):** throughout the whole praetorian guard; to everyone else — compound, both modify known

Noun clause A — object of “to know” (v. 12)

“... that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel ...”

- **Subject / verb:** circumstances — have turned out
- **Adjective:** my
- **Prepositional phrase (adverb):** for the greater progress
- **Prepositional phrase (adjective):** of the gospel — modifies progress

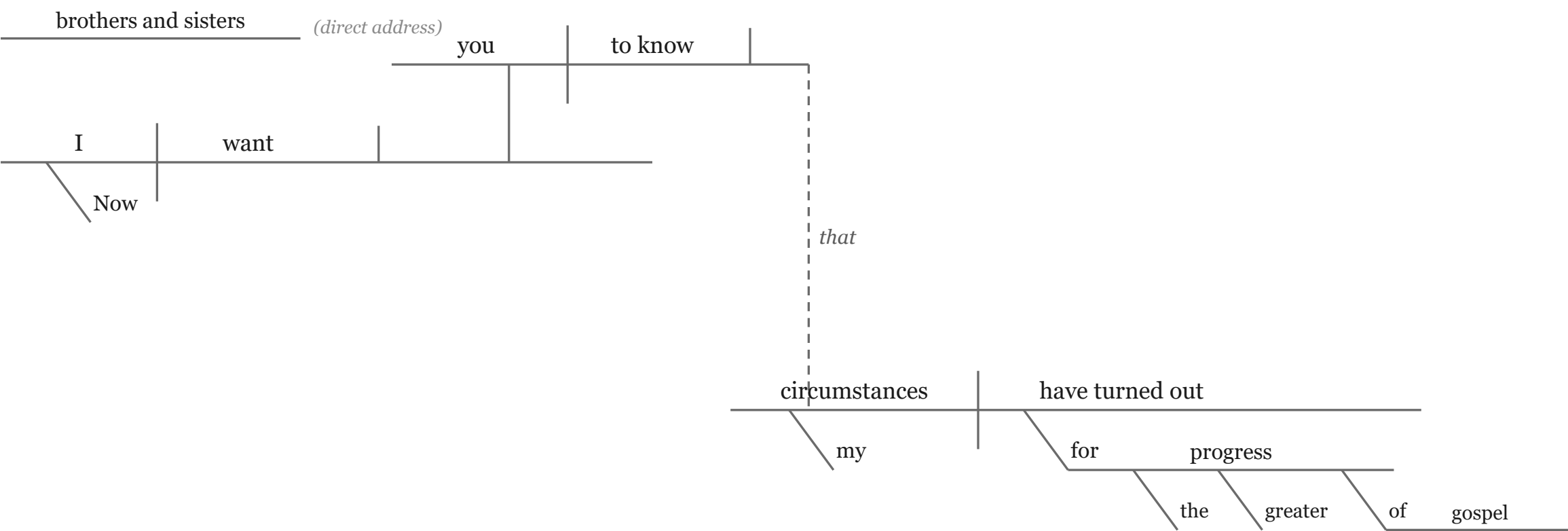
Noun clause B — second object of “to know” (v. 14)

“... and that most of the brothers and sisters, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.”

- **Subject / verb / object:** most — have — courage
- **Prepositional phrase (adjective):** of the brothers and sisters
- **Participial phrase (adjective):** trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment — modifies most
- **Infinitive phrase (adjective):** to speak the word of God without fear — modifies courage

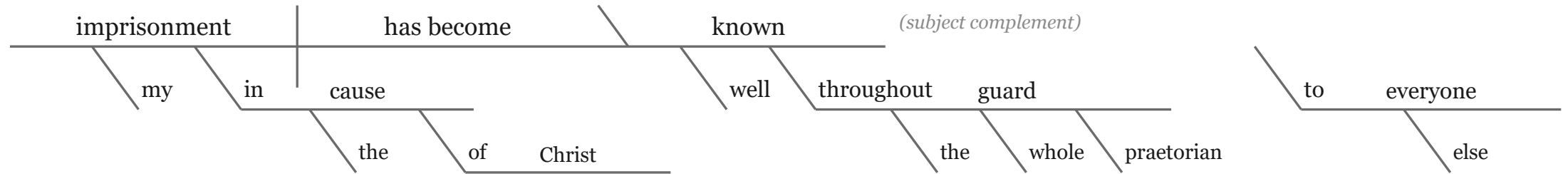
Verse 12 — Diagram

“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel.”



Verse 13 — Diagram

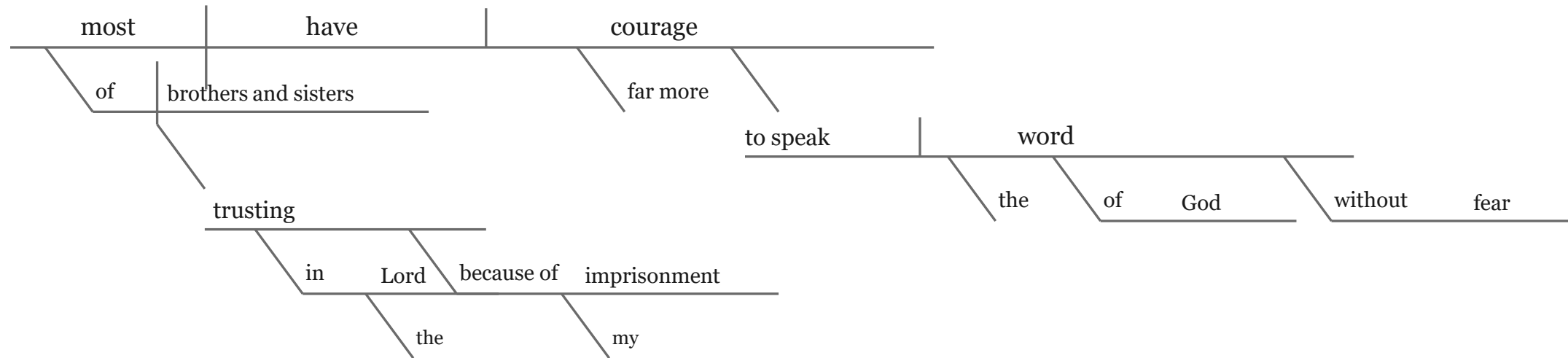
“...so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else.”



Both prepositional phrases modify the complement "known."

Verse 14 – Diagram

“...and that most of the brothers and sisters, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.”



The participial phrase “trusting...” modifies the subject “most”; the infinitive “to speak” modifies “courage.”

Notes from the Charles Caldwell Ryrie Study Bible

1:12–30

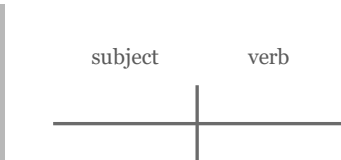
This passage tells us about all we know of this imprisonment. Paul knew he was facing a great ordeal, but he took great pains not to alarm his friends. His all-consuming concern was for the advancement of the Gospel. People were beginning to talk about his bonds and his Christ, the church in Rome was becoming more confident, and he intended to follow his course. He existed only to help forward the cause of Christ (v. 21).

1:13 praetorian guard

This group of imperial guards, distinct from the army or Roman police, was about 9,000 strong in Rome. They had heard the Gospel through their various members who had been assigned the duty of guarding Paul. Guard and prisoner were chained together, making a captive audience for the Gospel (see Eph. 6:20).

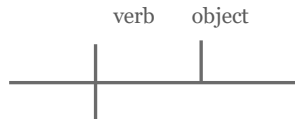
How to Read the Diagram

In a Reed-Kellogg diagram the sentence is drawn, not listed: position on the page shows grammatical function.



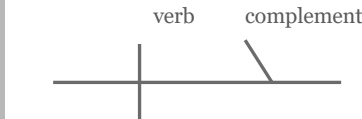
The baseline

The main words of a clause sit on one horizontal line: subject on the left, verb on the right, separated by a vertical line that cuts through the baseline.



Direct object

A vertical line that stops at the baseline separates the verb from its direct object — as with courage in verse 14.



Subject complement

A line slanting back toward the verb marks a predicate noun or adjective — known after has become in verse 13.



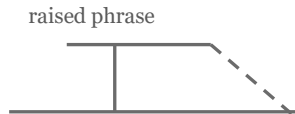
Modifiers on slants

Articles, adjectives, and adverbs hang on slanted lines beneath the word they modify: my, the, greater, well, far more.



Prepositional phrases

The preposition rides a slanted line; its object rests on a horizontal line attached below. Phrases may stack, as in for the greater progress of the gospel.



Stilts and dashed lines

Infinitive, participial, and noun-clause constructions are raised on a stilt; a dashed line ties a subordinate clause to the word it fills or modifies — the that-clause under to know.

A noun of direct address — brothers and sisters in verse 12 — has no grammatical tie to the clause, so it floats on its own short line above the diagram.

The Value of Diagramming Scripture Verses

As Part of Your Bible Study

Diagramming Scripture verses forces Bible students to slow down, see logical connections between ideas, and understand the precise meaning of the text.

Slowing Down

It stops you from rushing through a passage. You must look at every single word and phrase.

Tracing the Argument

You can visually track how an author builds a thought. Methods like Block Diagramming use lines and indentation to show which phrases support the main point.

Clarifying Grammar

It exposes how sentence structure shapes meaning. You see clearly what words modify other words.

Aiding Memory

Breaking a verse into visual parts helps lock the words and their meaning into your mind.

Sources

[1] sharperiron.org — “Eight Benefits of Greek New Testament Sentence Diagramming”

[2] equip.biblearc.com — “Why Block Diagramming Just Might Transform Your Bible Study”

[3] mcruffy.com — “Diagramming the Scriptures” by Shirley Forsen

[4] wordandway.org — “Bible Study Uses Sentence Diagramming to Unlock Scripture Meaning”

[5] rvbc.cc — “Block Diagramming”

Donnie's Copilot Instructions for This Project

Every instruction given for this deck, in the order it was typed.

Instruction 1

Diagram Philippians 1:12-14 (NASB 2012 Translation) using the Reed-Kellogg Sentence Diagram Method; make the first page header, "Philippians 1:18-20," and the sub-header, "A Reed-Kellogg Sentence Diagram With Notes." Quote the 3 verses below the sub-header, showing verse numbers in superscript. Add a page entitled, "Notes from the Charles Caldwell Ryrie Study Bible" and include: (1) "1:12-30 This passage tells us about all we know of this imprisonment. Paul knew he was facing a great ordeal, but he took great pains not to alarm his friends. His all-consuming concern was for the advancement of the Gospel. People were beginning to talk about his bonds and his Christ, the church in Rome was becoming more confident, and he intended to follow his course. He existed only to help forward the cause of Christ (v. 21). (2) "1:13 praetorian guard. This group of imperial guards, distinct from the army or Roman police, was about 9,000 strong in Rome. They had heard the Gospel through their various members who had been assigned the duty of guarding Paul. Guard and prisoner were chained together, making a captive audience for the Gospel (see Eph. 6:20).

[Clarification answered: the deck covers Philippians 1:12–14.]

Instruction 2

Add a page entitled, "The Sentence," and show the breakdown by clauses and phrases

Instruction 3

Add a page at the end entitled, "How to Read the Diagram," explaining the Reed-Kellogg conventions used on the preceding slides.

Instruction 4

Add a page at the end entitled, "Donnie's Copilot Instructions for This Project" and include all the instructions I have typed-in

Instruction 5

Add an additional page entitled, "The Value of Diagramming Scripture Verses As Part of Your Bible Study," and include the following points: Diagramming Scripture verses forces Bible students to slow down, see logical connections between ideas, and understand the precise meaning of the text. Scripture Slowing Down: It stops you from rushing through a passage. You must look at every single word and phrase. Tracing the Argument: You can visually track how an author builds a thought. Methods like Block Diagramming use lines and indentation to show which phrases support the main point. Clarifying Grammar: It exposes how sentence structure shapes meaning. You see clearly what words modify other words. Aiding Memory: Breaking a verse into visual parts helps lock the words and their meaning into your mind.

[Followed by five numbered source URLs, reproduced on that page.]