



Philippians 1:18b-30

October 4, 2020

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14

Begin with prayer. “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law” (Psalm 119:18).

What do you live for? We have answered this question so many ways: “To live is family.” “To live is work.” “To live is fun.” “To live is wealth.” “To live is relationships.” “To live is pleasure.” In our study this week, Paul continues his report on his situation, his outlook on the future, and he shows the Philippians how to live and die for the glory of Christ.

Full Courage

Read Philippians 1:18b-20.

Full courage = boldness — the trait of being willing to undertake activities that involve risk or danger; especially that involve being honest and straightforward in attitude and speech.

[Q] Why does Paul say he will rejoice in verse 18-19?

[Q] Paul says I *will* rejoice. It’s part of his plan for the future. What are your future plans? How could you include rejoicing this week?

Read Habakkuk 3:17–19:

¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer’s; he makes me tread on my high places.

[Q] What are the two agencies of deliverance Paul mentions in verse 19? What is Paul’s eager expectation and hope? (verse 20)

[Q] What do these verses indicate Paul is most concerned with?

[Q] How do your reactions to difficulty show that you are, or are not, most concerned with honoring Christ?

[Q] In light of Paul’s focus on honoring Christ during times of grave danger and suffering, how should we be praying for ourselves and each other during times of suffering?

Philippians 1:21: For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

[Q] Paul resolved that he would live for Christ. Everyone must fill in this blank personally. How would you complete this sentence?

For me, living is _____

We are not called to merely **be** Christians, or even to live **as** a Christian. Paul says: “to live **is** Christ...” The glory of Jesus is to be our foundation, our motive, our priority, our aim. The very reason and purpose of our existence—the heartbeat of our lives.
— Explore Devotional -Philippians

[Q] How does Paul expand on identity and purpose in Galatians 2:20 and Colossians 3:3-4?

[Q] **Read Philippians 1:22-26.** What is the struggle Paul is having in this section?

[Q] How could Paul view death as “far better”? Do you view death this way? Explain.

[Q] For what purpose did Paul say he would remain on the earth?

Living with Purpose

Read Philippians 1:27-30.

[Q] How would Paul’s instructions in 27-28 help the Philippians deal with opponents in a godly way?

manner of life = to live as a citizen — to live in accordance with the civic duties of one’s state or body politic, in this case, as a citizen of God’s Kingdom.

[Q] How does Paul view suffering and its purpose in verses 29-30? How does Jesus view suffering and persecution in Matthew 5:10-12; 16:24?

Apply

[Q] Look back over today’s passage, noting Paul’s main purpose in life. How does this passage enable you

- to reset your purpose?
- to press on in love and service to God and others?

Remember, as believers, we have God’s power to live out this purpose. We aren’t trying to earn acceptance before God, but rather, out of our acceptance before God through Christ, we now press on in a way that’s worthy of the gospel.