

Grace Group Questions

10-28-2018 – Philippians 1:18b-26 – To Live Is Christ

REMINDER: The purpose of our Grace Groups is to help our church family mature in our love for the Lord and each other. We seek to do this by 1. Practical Sermon Application 2. Practicing the One Another's 3. Providing Care 4. Praying Together 5. Pursuing Discipleship. These questions are simply a tool to help you achieve these purposes. You will notice that these questions are structured according to the three basic principles of Bible study - observation, interpretation, and application.

1. **Sermon Passage:** Read Philippians 1:18b-26
 - What was the main point of Sunday's sermon?
 - Can you outline the sermon?

2. **Observation – What did you hear?**
 - Paul is confident he will be delivered from prison. He implies there are two ways this might happen. What are they? Cf. 1:19.
 - How could Paul regard death as better than life in this world? Cf. 1 Corinthians 15:20–58; 2 Corinthians 5:1–8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18.
 - Shay mentioned 3 types of fruitful labor: 1. Attitudinal fruit, 2. Action fruit, 3. Conversion fruit. How do these types of ministry fruit put Christ's worth on display?

3. **Interpretation – What does it mean?**
 - Paul looks at life and death as two very real and imminent possibilities in 1:20-26. Each can spell victory for him. What is the “fruitful labor” that continuing to live would offer him?
 - What might it look like for Paul to honor Christ in life? In death? What does he mean by, “to live is Christ, to die is gain”?
 - Galatians 4:19 Paul says, “My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!” What does it mean to have Christ **formed** in someone?

4. **Application – How does this apply?**
 - How convinced are you that to die and be with Christ would be your ultimate gain?
 - Christ understands, by personal experience, what you are going through when you suffer for the gospel. Explain how your service and/or suffering has caused you to experience Jesus more intimately?
 - Jim Elliot famously penned these words, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." Do you agree with this statement? In what ways has your life reflected this statement? What areas need improvement?
 - How does Paul's teaching here help you understand your own struggles and sufferings?

5. **Prayer ...**