

Philippians Study Week 2

Philippians 1:20-30

Every human is searching for that one thing that brings them joy. Unfortunately we often look to things that may bring temporary happiness, but do not bring deep rooted joy. Happiness is fleeting, joy is eternal. Joy is a deep knowledge of our salvation, and a confident hope that God will never leave us or forsake us. The book of Philippians is a letter of joy! Paul's desire is that we know God in such a deep way, that joy becomes a foundational characteristic of our lives.

*****Read Philippians 1:20-30*****

TO LIVE AS JESUS

Paul's life purpose was simple... to live unashamed of the Gospel and become like Jesus. Think about this, those who don't believe in Jesus, this earth and what's in it are all they have. Their values are not God centered but of material things, money, popularity and things that are temporal. So for Paul, he could say dying would be gain, because His treasures were in Heaven... he had a different perspective. Somebody once said, "If you are not ready to die, then you are not ready to live." Our salvation, our eternal destination, is that firm foundation we stand on.

Read Philippians 1:20-23

- **With verses 20 and 23 in mind, how does your perspective of life line up with Paul's? Are you afraid of death? What "things of this world" are you holding on to and need to let go? Are you living an unashamed life?**
 - Read the following verses, discuss how they apply
 - 1 John 3:2-3
 - Romans 5:5
 - 2 Corinthians 3:12
 - Galatians 2:20
 - Romans 6:6
 - Romans 1:16
 - Galatians 5:24
 - Paul knew that God would work in His life through the good and the bad, and even knew that in death God would be glorified. He was bold,

confident and had an eternal perspective. As Christians we should feel the pull of heaven, knowing that for all eternity we will be in God's presence. However, with the time we have on earth... we will live boldly for Jesus!

- Read the following verses and discuss how they relate
 - 2 Corinthians 5:1-9
 - John 12:26

Read Philippians 1:24-26

Paul knew his purpose, he knew his identity, he knew what he was supposed to do.

- **Do you know your purpose, identity and calling?**

- Read the following verses and discuss how they relate
 - 1 Peter 2:9
 - Colossians 1:16
 - Jeremiah 29:11
 - Proverbs 16:4
 - Proverbs 19:21
 - Proverbs 20:5
 - Psalm 33:11
 - Romans 8:28
 - Ephesians 2:10
 - Matthew 28:18-20
- The last verse in Matthew, this is our purpose. Did you hear that? Your purpose is to GO and reach people with the good news of Jesus. Paul's purpose with the Philippians went way beyond just living and wasn't a selfish focus. He served the people with boldness declaring the Gospel... Who can you serve or help? What is your purpose for living?

Read Philippians 1:27-28

Verse 27 may be one of the most clear instructions for those who are followers of Jesus, and live in a manner that is worthy of the Gospel. Paul also encourages believers to be unified, to stand together and fight together for the faith. The reality is however that much of our time in church is fighting and arguing with each other about trivial things. And if we are honest, we are not unified oftentimes as believers, we are fragmented. We must work hard against gossiping, infighting and the temptation to fight

with people in the church. Remember we have 1 purpose, love God and love people... we are better together

- **Are you living your life worthy of the Gospel? Have you experienced infighting within a church? Describe a time where you have stood firm for the faith.**
 - Read the following verses and discuss how they apply
 - Ephesians 4:1
 - Ephesians 2:10
 - 1 Corinthians 16:13
 - Acts 4:32
 - We are Jesus representatives on earth, remember back to Ephesians, we are His ambassadors. With this in mind, we are called to live in such a way that we reflect Jesus in the way we act and live. We must challenge ourselves with this reality... Who are you? Look at your actions and the way you live, who do you represent?

Read Philippians 1:29-30

As we have read, Paul experienced many bad things for Jesus in his life and he considered it a privilege. This is crazy, when we suffer and represent Jesus well, our life not only affects us but greatly affects others. When we suffer for our faith, it doesn't mean we have done something wrong or bad. Often the opposite is true, it proves we have been faithful. Stand firm, be strong because the suffering is building your character.

- When in your life have you experienced suffering because of your faith in Jesus? If you have not, why do you think that is?
 - Read the following verses, how do they apply?
 - Acts 5:41
 - Matthew 5:11-12
 - 1 Timothy 6:12
 - 2 Timothy 4:7
 - Throughout his life, Paul suffered greatly for sharing the good news of Jesus. We to, if we share the Gospel, will face many of the same hardships. Remember, as believers in Jesus we are in this fight together.

We have one common enemy, the devil, and we must be unified so that the Gospel can reach those around us.

Be encouraged! There are so many people who need to hear the good news of the Gospel. And you are the very best person to share it with them!