

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Philippians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Philippians 1:12-30 – the magnification of Jesus Christ at all costs

Today's Message:

"Life and Death"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned that on the day of salvation, God begins an incredible work inside the born-again believer and promises to keep making you more like Jesus Christ until the day you see Him. Amen! What a blessed truth! Today, we will be exhorted by our Lord to live for Jesus Christ. We sure can talk a big talk on this topic, but the **PROOF** is in the *sanctified* life – the life that is truly set apart for Jesus Christ – for His magnification and service daily. The Holy Spirit says Jesus Christ ought to be your **LIFE**. This is a very helpful passage in the Bible for God's people. And this is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Philippians 1:12-30

A. The Purpose – the furtherance of the Gospel and magnification of Christ.

1. Paul's life was a testimony of how the Gospel spreads through **ADVERSITY**.

Philippians 4:22

All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.

- **Philippians 1:12** – But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me **have fallen out rather** unto THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL;
- **Philippians 1:13** – So that **my bonds in Christ** are MANIFEST in all the PALACE, and in all OTHER PLACES.

Examples

- **Joseph – Genesis 39:20-23** His setback became the **PLATFORM** to save Egypt & Israel!
- **Persecution – Acts 8:4** Persecution of the Church **SPREAD** the Gospel everywhere!

Personal Application

What is your chain? (illness, financial struggles, singleness, life challenges, etc.)
How could this adversity in your life be a platform for the Gospel?

Important Note

When other believers saw what Paul was going through, they were more bold to stand up for Christ!

2. Paul's main concern was advancing the **GOSPEL** – the *preaching of Jesus Christ*.

Important Note

Do you fret over the motives of others? Do you serve for recognition or for Christ?

- **Philippians 1:15** – Some indeed **preach Christ** even of ENVY and STRIFE...
- **Philippians 1:16** – The one **preach Christ** of CONTENTION, NOT SINCERELY...

Examples

- **Korah's Rebellion – Numbers 16** Korah wanted fame; God settled the issue Himself.

"And many... waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak..."

Courage for Jesus Christ is contagious. Often, it takes only one person to stand for others to see and follow in great numbers. Paul's bonds were actually a catalyst for the Gospel to advance.

B. The Prize – to be in the presence of Jesus Christ – face-to-face!

3. Paul's aim was to magnify Jesus Christ in his body whether by **LIFE** or by **DEATH**.

Important Note

We often see this life as the most important and mourn for those who are promoted to heaven. We understandably miss them and mourn the loss of them. But truly, they ARE IN a FAR BETTER PLACE right now if they were saved!!! You should be jealous and understanding that the people ministry of your life is your most needful priority right now.

- **Philippians 1:19** – For I know that **this shall turn to my salvation...** SUPPLY of the Spirit...
- **Philippians 1:20** – ...Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether...by LIFE, or by DEATH.
- **Philippians 1:21** – For to me to live IS CHRIST, and to die IS GAIN.
- **Philippians 1:22** – But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour...
- **Philippians 1:23** – For I am in a strait betwixt two,
having **a desire to depart**,
and **to be with Christ**;
which is FAR BETTER:
- **Philippians 1:24** – Nevertheless **to abide in the flesh** is MORE NEEDFUL for you.

Colossians 3:4
When **Christ, who is our life**, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Examples

- **Daniel's friends – Daniel 3:16-18** They counted death as gain, life as service!
- **Paul's experience – 2 Cor 12:2-5** He was caught up to paradise and came back!

Personal Application

Life = more fruitful labor for the Philippians (the care of people and souls)

Death = gain (to be face-to-face with Jesus Christ); What will you be known for?

Write your own epitaph: For to me... _____

C. The Privilege – to strive together in love for Christ and suffer for His sake.

4. Paul exhorted the believers to strive **TOGETHER** for the faith of the gospel.

Important Note

A unified church that lives for Jesus Christ and is not afraid to stand up for Him makes the world very nervous and afraid. This is the kind of Church the Holy Spirit wants us to understand and be.

- **Philippians 1:27** – Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ...
... **that ye stand fast in ONE SPIRIT**,
... **with ONE MIND striving together for the faith of the gospel**;
- **Philippians 1:28** – And in nothing terrified by your adversaries... token of perdition...

Example

- **Nehemiah – Neh 4:6** The people had a mind to work and stood against opposition.

Personal Application

Conversation = entire life; it speaks to others. Is your life "becoming" of the Gospel?

5. Paul encouraged the believers to see *suffering for Christ* as a **GIFT** granted by Him.

- **Philippians 1:29** – For unto you **IT IS GIVEN in the behalf of Christ**,
NOT ONLY to believe on him, BUT ALSO to suffer for his sake;

Example

- **Job – Job 1:2, 21; 2:10** Satan tried to destroy him; God used his life to glorify Him!

Personal Application

Do you see suffering for Christ's sake as a privilege? Has it been given to you?

Important Note

It is evident the Philippian believers were suffering for Christ's sake.

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Paul kept his life and priorities simple. While alive, he would magnify Jesus Christ and care for souls. And when God took his last breath, he would magnify Christ and be in a FAR BETTER PLACE with Him!