

Lesson 3, PHILIPPIANS 1:19-30

These verses in lesson 3 show clearly the depth of Paul's faith. He is willing to die for Christ or to live for Christ. His heart is totally committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and the message of the gospel. We know from the book of Acts that by this time, Paul had suffered greatly as he faithfully preached to the known world. Remember, this letter is Paul's most personal as if he is writing to his spiritual family.

1. Read verse 19. What does Paul say are the two things that are integral for his "deliverance"?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 and 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Why do you think it is important for Paul to chronicle his trials and sufferings to his churches?
3. Read verses 20-24 with John 14:1-4. Paul seems to have overcome his fear of death. Why do you think the idea of death is so fearful for some 21st century Christians?
4. Paul seems to believe that he will be set free from his imprisonment in Rome. See verse 25-26. Some theologians believe he was set free and continued his evangelization of the Gentiles possibly all the way to Spain (see Romans 15:20-24,28). Others believe he was martyred in Rome after his 2-year imprisonment. Colossians is another of the prison letters. Read Colossians 1:9-20. Pick key phrases that help you understand Paul's utter confidence in the Lord Jesus.
5. Read verses 27-30. These verses speak to the unity that is part of our faith walk with other Christians. According to these verses, what is the consequence of this unity?

Application: Read the lyrics to the song on the next page... if you can find it online, download it and hear the sweet message.

Prayer: Glorious Father, you have so much to show us about your love. Give us a glimpse of our entering your heavenly realms and joining Jesus as our perfect bridegroom to live forever with You. During times of uncertainty, you are certain. Embed this in our hearts and minds so there is no fear of death because Jesus conquered death. Help us to hold everything of this world lightly because we are created for the New Jerusalem, our eternal home. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

I Can Only Imagine

Source: LyricFind; Songwriters: Bart Marshall Millard; *I Can Only Imagine (iTunes Originals)* lyrics
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I can only imagine what it will be like
When I walk, by Your side
I can only imagine what my eyes will see
When you face is before me
I can only imagine

Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel
Will I dance for you Jesus
Or in awe of You be still?

Will I stand in your presence
Or to my knees will I fall
Will I sing hallelujah
Will I be able to speak at all?

I can only imagine
I can only imagine
I can only imagine when that day comes
When I find myself standing in the Son
I can only imagine when all I would do is forever
Forever worship You

Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel
Will I dance for You, Jesus
Or in awe of You be still?

Will I stand in your presence
Or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah?
Will I be able to speak at all?

I can only imagine, yeah
I can only imagine

I can only imagine
When all I will do
Is forever—forever worship You

I can only imagine

