

## Future Understanding, Present Action Philippians 1:19-30

**vs. 18,** Yes, and I will rejoice

- There is cause for joy even in the midst of Paul's present circumstances.
- Paul is expecting a trial soon.
- Christ will be honored no matter the outcome.

**vs. 19,**

Prayer / Help of the Holy Spirit / Result: my deliverance

**vs. 20-21,** Christ will be honored

Paul has a single pursuit in life and that pursuit is Jesus.

My body honors Christ. My heavenly citizenship determines my earthly attitudes and actions.

Paul is clear minded.

If the goal of living has been reached I welcome death, because in death I am immediately in the presence of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

Perspective accomplishes balance in life.

- Paul is not wishing for death.
- Paul is not dissatisfied with life.
- Paul is not desiring to escape difficulty.
- Paul does understand his ultimate future. He understands its certainty and beauty (desirability).

A balanced perspective gives proper tension (life and death).

**vs. 22-24,**

To live means fruitful labor.

Heaven is certainly better, but my living is better for you (the church in Philippi).

**vs. 25-26,** Paul is convinced that he will continue to live for the progress and joy of the church.

**Question:** What is my perspective on life and on death? If we become aware that we are here for progress and joy, how does living change? In order for your life to display progress and joy in faith, what are areas that need attention?

The result: Glory / Boasting in Christ

Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, **24** but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."

The ultimate evidence of genuine conversion (salvation) is boasting in Jesus, putting ones full trust or confidence in Jesus.

### The Problem

We have many options of where we will put our full trust or confidence.

Our singular passions are all over the map.  
For me to live is...

- ...a well paying job.
- ...this specific type of relationship.
- ...marriage, sex, kids.
- ...freedom to be my own person.
- ...recognition.
- ...to decide my truth and seek validation.

Progress and joy are contingent on our singular passion -> Christ

We must grasp our future with a Jesus centered perspective and focus.

“Eschatology is the tool we use to loosen the soil and weed the field.” ~Eugene Peterson (Under the Unpredictable Plant)

Part of the cultivation process in the heart of a child of God is to understand the enormous hope of the future.

**Question:** How would you complete the following sentence, For me to live is...  
\_\_\_\_\_. Be honest and open with Jesus. Ask for clarity and direction. Is Jesus central in your life and is your hope increasing?

**vs. 27,** Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel.  
What are ways to live this worthy life?

**#1** -> Standing firm in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with one mind.

If the gospel is all about reconciliation (Mission core value), then unreconciled people do not represent it well.

1 Corinthians 5:18-20 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** that is, in Christ God was reconciling[c] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

The church is in double jeopardy as it experiences internal conflict and external opposition.  
We must have a common mindset and mutual love.

**#2** -> Do not be intimidated by the opposition. (**vs. 28**)

- Philippi was known as a Roman colony.
- Remember: The Roman Emperor was referred to as lord and savior.
- Despite your Roman citizenship, live as citizens of heaven (kingdom).

Philippians 3:17-20 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. **18** For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. **19** Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. **20** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Eschatology -> a sign of their destruction and your salvation.

**#3** -> Theological explanation of Christian suffering.

Matthew 10:24 “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

- The God who has overflowing grace to accomplish your salvation is the same God who graced you with suffering for his sake (**vs. 29**).
- The path of glorification leads through the suffering of the cross.

The church in Philippi *understands* the history of Paul’s suffering.

They understand the context and environment of their city.

They understand the struggles of being people who live with the priorities of the kingdom of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:2 But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.

Do we understand?

- I pray that you will be a people (a church) that is pure and blameless and never a means of hurting others.

The “normal” church experience in the west is a huge distraction.

Sin is at work.

We don't understand the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are blinded concerning the value of the gospel.

In what ways?

- Materialism
- Cultural intrigue
- Sectarianism / Tribalism - consumed with proving our “rightness” and obsessing over others “wrongness”.

The church is not known for Jesus, it is known for... so many other painful things.

Striving side by side for the faith of the gospel. This is why we are here!

We are fractured. There is no ability for the church to be weight bearing!

**Question:** Are we (Second Mile) a unified team? Are we working in sync with one another? Are we future aware and Jesus centered?

As branches abiding in the vine, we engage in opposition by loving them to death (certainly death to self) and perhaps something more.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Question:** Is Jesus your singular passion? How am I living the mission of reconciliation?