



June 16, 2019

DIGGING DEEPER

Philippians 1:18b-26

The purpose of this document is to help us
take the word beyond our Sunday gathering
and to **think through the practical**
implications of the Scriptures and then to
be intentional about living the word out.

michael@vintagenc.com

Vintage Church Durham



Help in Christ

Philippians 1:18b-19; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Philippians 4:11-13; Romans 8:16-18

Questions Worth Asking

Paul believed that he was not alone in this life. He had full confidence that Christ was with him. This confidence caused Paul to put his full trust in the Lord no matter where he was or what he was going through. Paul's awareness of Christ's closeness and capability caused him to believe that his suffering would lead to salvation. As followers of Christ, we have the same help that Paul did. When we OBEY LOVE, we can rest assured that the Lord, who made heaven and earth, is with us. This confidence should compel us to continue to fight the good fight of faith. Should we begin to question Christ's closeness or capability we will find ourselves pouting in times of persecution rather than propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ. Seasons of suffering aren't the time to question our Help, that is the time to hold on to our hope.

1. What expectations have caused you to feel like God is not present when things aren't pleasant?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why does it feel like God is absent in hardships even though the Scriptures tell us different (Psalm 23)?
- How have you seen the Lord actually grow you in your faith and dependency on him through hardships?
- What pains have you suffered as a result of obeying love (this includes the pain of going without something because you denied the flesh in obedience to the Lord)?

2. What have been some key components to helping you develop trust in someone else?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How have you been intentional about getting to know God so you can trust him with your life?
- What would cause you to question someone that has demonstrated they are faithful and worthy to be trusted?
- When you have come to trust someone, how do you respond in moments where there is a misunderstanding?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you recognize the help you have in Christ...

1. Read a Psalm and a chapter in Proverbs each day for the rest of the month.
2. Make a two-column list.
 - a. On one side write down what you have. On the other side write down how you got it.
 - b. The things that came from God keep. The things that didn't come from God discard.
 - c. Whatever the outcomes that come from the things of God (pleasant or painful), know that God is using it to grow you. And he is with you through it all.
3. Write out a painful time in your life that the Lord has brought you through and how you could now see how God was with you through the suffering. He hasn't changed.

Hope in Christ

Philippians 1:20a; Hebrews 6:13-20a; 1 Corinthians 15

Questions Worth Asking

Not only was Paul confident in Christ's closeness and capability, he was also fully persuaded that Christ was coming again. This was the foundation on which Paul's life was built on. The reality of Christ returning for those who are his was the anchor that caused Paul to remain unmovable in whatever season of life he was in. Staying focused on what was to come positioned Paul to sacrifice his comfort for the sake of the coming Christ. If we don't stay focused on the promise it will be easy to get distracted and to lose sight of the goal. This will cause our suffering to seem senseless and will oftentimes lead to shutting down the sacrifices we were making for Christ. We must continually remember that God is faithful and Christ is coming. This truth will cause us not to become weary in well doing. Hold on my brother and sister!

1. What has caused the hope that you had in Christ to seem less like an anchor that holds you fast and more like a theory that becomes a fast fading thought?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How do you keep the anticipation and expectation for something you are waiting for at the forefront of your mind?
- How has the continued thought of that which you were waiting for dictated what you thought and did?
- What things would be helpful for you to keep the hope of Christ's return at the forefront of your mind 2,000 + years after he said he would return?

2. What was attributed to the seasons of life when you felt the faith you had in the Lord was unmovable?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How does knowing the character of Christ help you to hold on to the hope set before us?
- What part has Christ-centered community played in you feeling fixed on the firm foundation of the name and word of God?
- What has been your response when you realized that you weren't holding on as tightly to your hope?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you hold on to hope even in turbulent times...

1. **Read and meditate on [Hebrews 6:13-20](#) & [1 Corinthians 15](#).**
2. Talk out your hurt so that it doesn't consume your heart. And ask the listener to share with you how they have seen the faithfulness of your Father in their hardships.
3. Ask for help from people in your faith family. Even if someone can't meet a felt need, the fact that someone is willing to stand with you in prayer will be such an encouragement. We need to remember and witness the impacts of not being alone.

Hunger to Honor Christ

Philippians 1:20b-26

Questions Worth Asking

What do you give to the one who calls you, keeps you and is coming to get you? You give nothing short of your entire life. Paul's trust in his Help and hope in his future fueled his hunger to honor Christ with his life, whether by life or by death. This truth was lived out by Paul not living for himself. He was willing to sacrifice his comfort and even his desires to ensure that the will of God was always lived out through him. There was no price too high and there was no position too low in service of his Savior. Paul lived to please his Lord whether that called him to the palace or the prison. Paul wasn't a super-saint; his appetite to please the Lord was dependent on how he saw his Help and where he put his hope. If we trust in the Lord and hold on to the hope of his return, we will have the same hunger to honor Christ with our life, whether by life or by death.

1. Why is it so difficult to live a sacrificial life?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What has caused you to put self above the will of the Savior?
- How have the sacrifices of another caused you to feel loved by the Lord?
- How have you felt after giving up something you wanted so that someone else can have what they needed?

2. What spiritual disciplines and activities have helped you to stay hungry for the ways of the Lord?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How does a regular routine of spending time in the word of the Lord keep the things of the Lord first in your life?
- What things are more likely to become a distraction from you staying disciplined in your pursuit of God's presence?
- Why do the things of this world seem to be more appealing than the things of the kingdom of heaven at times?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you maintain a healthy appetite for the things of God...

1. Begin and end your day reading and meditating on God's word and praying his truth back to him.
2. Serve someone that you are in relationship with (family, co-worker, classmate, etc.) that could use help (no matter how simple).
3. Watch the news every day this week and be reminded of the depravity of man when living absent of the Savior. There go I but by the grace of God.