Phil 1: 12-30

- The Apostle Paul is an extraordinary person
 - He writes this "letter" or epistle of joy
 - Yet when we look at his life, we must marvel
 - Acts 9: 19b-31
 - II Cor 11: 23-28
 - Acts 28: 16; 18-23
 - Every six hours the guard was relieved by another
 - Question?????
 - Who was chained to whom?

- During this trial Paul writes this letter of joy
 - He gives us a listing of items that bring him joy
 - Vs 12.....the gospel is progressing
 - Vs 13....all the guards know I am not a criminal
 - Vs 14-16.....the brethren are emboldened
 - Vs 17...even those who hate me are spreading the news of the gospel
 - Vs 18.....Christ is proclaimed
 - Vs 18....I will rejoice

- Here is the mindset for every Christian
 - Vs 21.....For me to live is Christ
- •Vs 19-30....
- Paul, through the Holy Spirit, issues forth some vital truths for us today
 - Vs 19....I know this will turn out
 - Vs 6.....He that began a good work in you....
 - Will perfect/complete it

- In this statement we see faith and hope in Christ alone
 - Vs 19....."I know"
 - How?
 - II Cor 4: 17-18
 - The things which are not seen are eternal
 - Paul's focus is not on the here and now
 - His focus is on his citizenship in heaven
- How do we know this?

- The word used in Vs 19 is "deliverance"
 - From what?
 - From the trial in Rome?
 - From being chained to this prison guard?
 - From this life?
 - Soteria....Greek for "salvation"
 - Job 13: 16; Isa 12: 2-4
 - Vs 20...."whether by life or death"
 - Rom 14: 8-9

- The Christian life is to....
 - Live as Christ.....
 - Live for Christ.....
 - Live by Christ.....
 - Live in Christ......
 - To experience life from Christ....
- Question.....
- Why did the Holy Spirit lead Paul to write this to you and me?

- We need to constantly be reminded that
 - Vs 21....for me to live is Christ...to die is gain
 - Death is not the destruction of the Christian
 - Rather it is a continuation of what was started
 - Vs 6...
- The continuity and intensity of the Christian life
 - Knows no stoppage
 - It goes on and on and on and on

- This is so valuable for us to know.....Why?
 - The person who seeks power
 - Will lose it when they die
 - The person who seeks fame
 - Will lose it when they die
 - The person who seeks wealth
 - Will lose it when they die
- But the person who seeks the eternal.....
 - Will never die
 - Ask Lazarus

- Vs 23......"having the desire to depart"
 - Note.....not "a desire" but "the desire"
 - The desire is not just to depart
 - Two-fold aspect
 - Depart and be with Christ
- One flaw in my concept of heaven
 - Rev 21: 4.....
 - My concept is that this is what heaven will be like
 - Rev 21: 5-7
 - Note all the "I's"

- Heaven is not so much a place as it is with whom we will enjoy it with
 - Rev 21: 22-23
- Paul thinks so little of dying because
 - His focus is on what comes after
 - Everything we read about in Rev 21-22
 - Cannot become the focus......
 - It is all about the glory to be revealed in us
 - Rom 8: 18-23

- •Rev 22: 3-6a...
 - These words are faithful and true
- Vs 25.....Paul is not wishing to die
 - He just knows.....that as long as he remains
 - There will be fruitful labor
- Blessed are they who desire to depart
- But labor on in victory for Christ
- That is a life of joy and earnest expectation

Your will be done, my God and Father As in heaven, so on earth My heart is drawn, to self exalting Help me seek, Your kingdom first

As Jesus walked, so I shall walk
Held by Your same unchanging love
Be still my soul, O lift your voice and pray
Father, not my will but Yours be done

How in that garden, He persisted
I may never fully know
The fearful weight of true obedience
It was held by Him alone

- What wonderous faith, to bear that cross
- To bear my sin, what wonderous love
- My hope was sure
- When there my Savior prayed
- Father, not My will but Yours be done

When I am lost, when I am broken In the night of fear and doubt Still, I will trust in my good Father Yes, to the one great King I bow

As Jesus rose, so I will raise In ransomed glory at the throne My heart restored With all Your saints I sing Father, not my will but Yours be done

As we go forth, our God and Father
Lead us daily in the fight
That all the world might see Your glory
And Your name be lifted high

And in this Name, we overcome For You shall see us safely home Now as Your church We lift our voice and pray Father, not my will but Yours be done

And in this Name, we overcome For You shall see us safely home Now as Your church We lift our voice and pray Father, not my will but Yours be done