

Philippians 1- Perspective Change

- Background
 - Philippi was the gateway city between Asia and Europe, in the province of Macedonia
 - 10-15k thousand
 - Diverse city.
 - Jews and Gentiles don't care for each other
- Saul was from Tarsus. His dad was a Pharisee (Acts23:6), he was one as well, and he was well educated.
- Saul was also a Roman citizen
- Acts 16- Lydia & Roman Jailer
 - The door opens because of the praise of Paul, Timothy, and Silas. And just because the door was open, and just because they may have wanted to go through. They don't, because God didn't tell them.

Sometimes Satan opens doors, and they are traps.

Just because there is an open door, it doesn't mean we should go through it. God must be the one who tells us to go.

We can save ourselves a lot of trouble by simply going when God tells us to go and staying when God tells us to stay.

Who are we to tell God who he can or cannot use?

- 10 plus years after he first visited Philippi
- Paul is in prison
 - Prisons in ancient times weren't meant to rehabilitate people. They were holding tanks
- The Church in Philippi has blessed Paul, because Paul is in jail
- Joy is a central theme in Philippians

1 This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus.

I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders^[a] and deacons.

2 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Philippians 1:1-2

Paul is defined by being a servant of Jesus

- This is shocking language, even in today's language.

1. To live for Jesus means we are to live as Jesus lived.

Satan uses society to sell us a temporary, knock-off version of success and happiness.

- Satan is perfectly fine with people who proclaim Jesus is Lord but don't live as if He truly is Lord.

3 Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. **4** Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, **5** for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. **6** And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 1:3-6

2. When God calls you to it. He will see you through it.

Success is obedience to Jesus.

20 For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. **21** For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.

22 But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. **23** I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. **24** But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

25 Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. **26** And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

Philippians 1:20-26

-

3. Following Jesus means we view things differently.

When we make Jesus the center of our lives, we view things differently, and over time, we start to view things as Jesus would view them.

27 Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. **28** Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. **29** For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. **30** We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.

Philippians 1:27-30

4. Jesus calls us to a higher citizenship.

How do you become citizens of heaven?

We seek Jesus



We trust Jesus



We obey Jesus

