



When You Don't Know What the Future Holds Philippians 1:1-11

What do you think when you think about the future, not the ultimate future, but the next few years? For many people, the mood about the future isn't bright, particularly because this year is an election year.

We began this year with "Wanting More in 2024" as an expression of our heart's desire.

Today we begin a new series that focuses on "Life in Christ" from the book of Philippians. We experience God's "more" by living life **in** Christ,

which means everything in life bows to Jesus' words and way (John 14:6).

This morning we're going to look at how we should view the future as people following Jesus. None of us know what the future holds, but here's Good News:

When you don't know what the future holds, get to know Who holds the future!

Pay attention to the words "get to know." In any relationship, there's always something more to know...! It's true that we can both know someone and are getting to know them at the same time!

Our focus for this message is Verse 6. I want to make some observations about this that are critical to how Jesus People can view the future.

The Philippian Church was birthed in great persecution.

The story of this is found in Acts 16...

It is in Philippi that Paul/Silas:

Meet a woman, Lydia, at a place of prayer (no synagogue).

Lydia and her household come to faith in Jesus.

Meet a demonized woman and cast out an evil spirit.

Which leads to:

Being attacked, stripped, beaten with rods, jailed, chained.

Then there's an earthquake and salvation of a jailer/household.

Paul refers to this suffering as shameful in 1 Thessalonians 2:2.

Yet there was confidence in what God was doing and will do!

ESV: I am sure...

New Living Translation: I am certain...

KJV/NKJV, NIV, NASB: Being confident...

Despite a past of persecution and an unknown present, the Church could be confident in the God who holds the future!

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This is what the Church in Philippi was doing!

- 1) They are referred to as “saints” (Verse 1).
- 2) They had a partnership in the gospel (Verses 5, 7).
- 3) They were a church characterized by love (Verse 9).
- 4) They were a church of good works (Verse 11).

When you don't know what the future holds, get to know Who holds the future!

Read Verse 6 again. Dare to believe it! Believe it despite your feelings and failures, your situation and struggles, your limitations and weaknesses. This promise is for all who are in Christ!

Where in life do you need to hold to this promise most? Will you decide right here/now to believe this over what you see? Let's be a church that is getting to know Christ and one another; walking with the God Who holds the future!