A Practical Study of PHILIPPIANS

THE GOAL OF CHRISTIAN LIVING
"Important Keys to Successful, Fulfilled Living"

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GOAL NUMBER TWO – THE GLORY OF CHRIST – PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

We read back in the book of Samuel the little word Ichabod—the glory of the Lord has departed.

On the Mount of Transfiguration the glory of the Lord was demonstrated to the executive committee—Peter, James and John. They were so compelled by the glory they saw, they wanted to stay there. They were so overwhelmed.

Sometimes as we gather together, we have to confess its going through a lot of motions, there's little dynamic. There is very little of the glory that ought to be there.

One writer said:

Disillusionment sets in when a man or woman arrives at a goal in life only to discover that the prize wasn't worth the race.
(source unknown)

We have learned that the ultimate goal God has for each of our lives is to make us like Jesus Christ.

Secondary goals to the accomplishment of that full purpose are to demonstrate in our lives a self-sacrificial Spirit-produced love that gives us joy in sacrificial service to one another.

The world sees that and the world is attracted to it. In the early church it manifested itself by everyone selling their things and sharing in common by meeting the needs of other members in the body of Christ as it continued to grow.

We're going to talk about the GLORY.

We have to have LOVE before we have the glory. If we really don't love someone, we're selfish and we want our own glory. But when we learn to set aside everything, as far as we're concerned, then we're ready to become a person who displays His glory.

We can't begin to live for the glory of Christ without the love of Christ. Love comes first and then we begin to manifest the glory. It's because the love of Christ was motivating the apostle Paul that he made this statement we're going to see in verse 20, when we get to our second goal—the Glory of Christ.

Each of us have to decide somewhere along the line in our lives, for whom are we living? For what are we living? What do we hope to accomplish in our lives?

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We set these goals and objectives. For most of us, we have to admit that up to this point in a materialistic country where we've had such blessing, we have failed to be motivated by the love of Christ to the point where we would only live for Him.

Some of the writers in the 18th and 19th centuries still had ahold of this. It's like the glory of God came down and compelled them under an inspired pen to write words.

Charles Wesley said:

Refining fire, go through my heart. Illuminate my soul, scatter thy life through every part and sanctify the whole. My steadfast soul from falling free shall then no longer move. While Christ is all the world to me, and all my heart is love. (source unknown)

Now why don't we see the glory of Christ more among us? We're focusing more on what we GET, if we have enough faith rather than on manifesting what we ARE. We've become so selfish.

It's "what am I going to get out of this?" It's "don't' disturb me please. Just give me $3 worth of God and a bag of comfort.

The glory of Christ will never be displayed in that kind of an environment. It's only as Jesus Christ is lifted up that He will be glorified. He'll be glorified and seen in us. That's what we're striving for.

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Let's see it demonstrated. These verses are fabulous

<u>v. 12</u> Now I am desiring you to know, brethren, that the things concerning me (my imprisonment) have turned out rather in the progress of the gospel,

"Now I am desiring you to know, brethren, that the things concerning me (my imprisonment) have turned out rather in the progress of the gospel,"

Paul says, "Look, I'm in prison. I could hire a court-appointed attorney. I could get resentful over this, that I haven't done anything that deserves a prison sentence. I could make all kinds of campaigns and pleas in order to be extricated from that. And yet I am discovering there is an assignment here in this prison cell. There is something happening. There is progress for the gospel by what's happening to me."

The apostle, no matter what you do to him, locks in to the purpose of God with everything that happens. To some people being in prison would be a pretty bad deal.

His being incarcerated yet he was locked into God's purpose. God never makes a mistake so there's going to be something that's about to happen from this. "God's going to get glory through my imprisonment."

There's no greater illustration of scripture than Joseph. Joseph tells his brothers after 22 years of being separated

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from him, "You thought it for evil against me but God meant it for good."

Even his prison sentence was extended two years longer than he wanted because some cupbearer forgot him. He still comes up saying, "Hey look, its ok! God's timing is perfect."

Why? He was locked into the Abrahamic covenant and he knew that it was God's purpose to get the seed into the land of Egypt for 430 years, into land that was not theirs and to be in bondage. Joseph is the shock troop. Joseph is the first one to go down. He sees in all of that God's purpose in what He is doing.

Paul basically says "If you want to see the equation, prison on one side equals progress on the other. I'm not really feeling down and bad."

God's ultimate goal is to make us like Christ. Now here's another big one:

> God's purpose is to glorify His Son.

God's purpose is NOT to glorify us. God's purpose is NOT to glorify Billy Graham when he gets to heaven over all the thousands and thousands of people who've been led to the Lord.

Some people, young Christians, get embarrassed by the fact that they think they're going to go to heaven and they're not

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going to get any recognition up there. Well listen, you'll be right at home. The whole recognition is to our Savior. He gets all the glory. He gets all the honor. He gets all the praise.

There's not going to be this business of super stars in heaven. There's going to be one person upon whom all the glory sits and it's our Savior. As we adore Him, as we worship Him, as we fall at His feet, and we realize He's working His good purpose in our life, we're being ultimately prepared for that.

That's why James can say:

<u>James 1:2</u>

> Consider it pure joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, …

That's why Paul can say:

<u>Romans 8:28</u>

> God is working all things together for good…

Someone put it this way:

Many times in our lives disappointment is his appointment. The secret lies in changing the letter D to the letter H. (source unknown)

Disappointment—His appointment

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We can triumph then in any circumstance.

In the OPPOSITION he sees an OPPORTUNITY.

What do you think Paul did while he was in prison? He was chained to the key Green Beret—the Praetorian Guard right there in Rome. They went on 6-hour shifts with Paul. You can hear them in the barracks saying, "Who'd you pull duty with tonight?"

"Oh I got Paul."

"Well plan on 6 hours of preaching Jesus. Man I can tell you, the guy's going to lay it on you."

They were considering themselves chained to Paul not Paul chained to them.

Paul had a captive audience. So when we get to the end of the letter, it's no surprise that a bunch of people in the Praetorian Guard have become Christians.

Now don't say you can't lead people to Christ where you live. Don't say you can't manifest the glory of Christ in your profession and reach people. You can focus on the glory!

As the Philippians read this, they think he's in prison and he says there's been an advancement of the gospel as a result of what's gone on in his life. Anything else?

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They remembered how the church was founded back in Acts 16 when Paul and Silas had been pitched in prison about 4:00 in the afternoon. It took till midnight, but they were singing. The sacred concern shook the house.

The doors opened and the guard was ready to commit suicide. Then we had a revival. He and his whole family became Christians. That little church remembered prison sentences. They remembered how it started and some of them were shaking their heads and saying "Yeah, Paul's right on again. He's there and he's realizing the wrath of God, the wrath of man is going to praise God" (Psalm 76:10).

As a man he could recognize the apostle could see a vivid illustration of an opportunity. That there were doors in his difficulties. There were thoroughfares through the thwartings that he was facing. In the adversity he saw an advantage.

Fénelon in his book *Let God* said this:

You have great need of the power of the Holy Spirit, both to sustain you in this time of trouble, and also to restrain you in your natural desire to find a way out of it.
(source unknown)

God forged that curriculum. He designed those relationships. Rather than getting all upset and uncomfortable and wondering how you're going to work your way out of it, leave it in the hands of God and glorify Him in the midst of it! It could

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be that in your circumstances He's forging an opportunity for a fantastic witness with the right response from you. You're the key to it.

<u>v. 13</u> so that it has become evident that my imprisonment (bonds) are because of Christ in the whole Praetorian Guard and to all the rest,

"so that it has become evident that my bonds (or my imprisonment) are because of Christ"—Christ is involved in this thing—" in the whole Praetorian Guard and to all the rest,"

The only way a man can make a statement like that is that man has the key to glory. That is you must have an attitude of acceptance.

If you don't have an attitude of acceptance about whatever comes into your life, then you aren't ready to demonstrate the glory of God.

You're still there arguing, you're still resisting, you're still bitter, you still feel like you're not getting what you're due—what you deserve. An attitude of acceptance is the KEY for Paul being able to say my "bonds are because of Christ. The Lord's in my Roman imprisonment and a ministry is taking place."

<u>v. 14</u> and the great majority of the brethren, having become confident in the Lord through my

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imprisonment (bonds), are more abundantly bold to speak the word of God without fear.

"and the great majority of the brethren, having become confident in the Lord through my imprisonment, are more abundantly bold to speak the word of God without fear."

Inside the prison he's seen fruit borne as these soldiers are expressing their faith in Christ. But outside the prison he sees something else pretty great too.

Since Paul is not crying "poor me!" and feeling bad and feeling like his life is out of control and everything that's happening to him is bad, and he's just mealy-mouthed and carrying on, everybody else is getting a little bit bold. And out there, they're starting to share the gospel in the Roman Empire without fear. So Paul sees two good things happening—one inside and one outside.

Do you ever stop to think that your attitude toward circumstances that are forged for your Christlikeness can be a means whereby others are going to be bold to share Christ simply because they see you triumphant and victorious in that?

That's a new thought to so many people. They think they're lost in a crowd—nobody sees them. Nobody notices their determination, their goal-orientation, their lives that are built on the premise that God is faithful. They keep hanging in there.

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"the great majority of the brethren" now are starting to witness for Christ.

<u>Acts 8:1, 4</u>

> And Saul was consenting unto Stephen's death, and at that time there was great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem. And they were all scattered abroad…Therefore, they that were scattered abroad went everywhere, preaching the word.

They just kept on going.

Paul would tell you the truth in verse 15.

<u>v. 15</u> Certain ones, indeed, are preaching Christ even because of envy and strife, but also certain others because of good will;

"Certain ones, indeed, are preaching Christ even because of envy and strife, but also certain others because of good will;"

There are a few guys that are out there preaching the gospel through "envy and strife." They're preaching it because they're jealous and they want to stir up strife.

He says there are others that are doing it right. They're doing it "because of good will" so we've got two kinds of groups.

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And Paul says that a lot of places. He always gives you the purity of his motives. We especially see this in the Corinthian epistles.

2 Corinthians 2:17

> We're not like many, peddling the word of God, but out of sincerity, as from God we're speaking in Christ.

He challenges Timothy:

2 Timothy 4:2

> Preach the word, be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with great patience and instruction.

So the apostle says there are some that are doing it this way and there are some that are doing it that way.

v. 16 some indeed out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;

"some indeed out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;"

Circle the little word "love."

Some of them really ought to love are doing it. It's the love of Christ that's controlling them. And they're doing it right.

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They know "I am appointed for the defense of the gospel," so the love of Christ is motivating them and they're living for the glory of Christ. They're doing it right.

<u>v. 17</u> but others out of a self-seeking spirit are proclaiming Christ, not from pure motives, thinking to raise up additional afflictions to my imprisonment (bonds).

"but others out of a self-seeking spirit are proclaiming Christ, not with pure motives, thinking to raise up additional afflictions to my imprisonment."

Some of these guys think they have a real opportunity to get Paul while he's down.

"We've got him in prison. We've got him out of circulation. Now we're going to steal all his converts. We're really going to work it over, make it tough for him."

Have you ever been around anybody like that who really is a thorn in your side? Burr in your saddle?

There's a book by Shelley called *Well-Intentioned Dragons*. The book opens with the premise that in every congregation you'll find one. And probably a few more if you'll look a little further.

Paul says that:

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2 Timothy 4:14

Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm…

We need to ask him what Alexander did. If it was just that he was a real hard-nosed, arrogant creep who felt that he knew it all and he was not going to cooperate with any program that came down the pike, as far as Paul is concerned.

Then you see John, the epitome of love. In 3 John he has to reprimand Diotrephes and slap him on the hands because he doesn't receive the saints and he wants to be first in everything.

We find so oftentimes among saints, you run into people who want to pitch, bat, manage and run the whole show. And put all of us in our places, whether we're in leadership or not. As long as they're in total and complete control, everything is fine.

It is really hard, in the body of Christ, to see that. Paul is able to handle it here. He does a fantastic job at it.

Look at verse 18. He doesn't get upset about it!

v. 18 What does it matter? Except that in every manner, whether in pretense or truth, Christ is being proclaimed; and in this I am rejoicing, and I shall certainly continue to be rejoicing.

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"What does it matter? Except that in every manner, whether in pretense or truth, Christ is being proclaimed; and in this I am rejoicing, and I shall certainly continue to be rejoicing."

What does he do? He gets it OFF of the personal confrontation and he gets it ON the person of Christ.

He says these guys go out and they start preaching their own deal, "What does that matter?" They want to do it that way, that's their thing.

Acts 5 is so fabulous: "You know, leave them alone. If it's from God, it'll really be prospered. If it's from men, it'll fold anyway. So what's the deal, schlemiel?"

In the ministry you can spend ten times more emotional energy on one person like that in a congregation than on the three or four hundred who are rejoicing in the Lord and growing as saints. That's the way the devil does it.

He gets us all focusing all of our emotional energy on things like this. Paul says, "Big deal. What's it matter? In every way Christ is being preached and I am rejoicing in that and I'll continue to rejoice because what I want is for Christ to be preached."

As you think in your heart sometimes, you reveal your real attitude. Some of us are born with a negative grid.

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Dr. John Schindler wrote an article called "Your Mind Can Keep You Well." He says:

I drove past a friend's farm one summer day. And I thought to myself, "Those oats ought to make Sam happy." So I drove in and I said, "Sam, that's a wonderful field of oats." And Sam said, "Yes, but the wind will blow it down before I get it cut." He got it cut all right. He got it threshed, and he got a good price for it. Well, I saw him one day and I said, "Sam, how did the oats turn out?" And he said, "Oh, it was a good crop, and I guess the price was all right, but you know, a crop like that sure takes a lot out of the soil."
(source unknown)

You find people like that, no matter what you do. Thomas was one of those.

Here he is. They'd just been persecuted there up in Galilee and they get a telegram that Lazarus is sick. The Lord says "Let's go back!"

Thomas, sweet little pessimist that he is, says:

John 11:16

> …Let us also go, that we may die with him.

Throw in the towel, go to the house.

A pessimist is a guy who swallowed an egg. He's afraid to

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move for fear it might break and afraid to sit still for fear it might hatch. No matter how you look at him, it comes up negative.

There's nothing more refreshing in the body of Christ to see somebody victorious in circumstances. This victorious-ness in circumstances is the ability to accept what's going on in our life. And when we can accept that, then we're ready for victory and for Christ's glory to be demonstrated in the arena of where we live. That's just exactly what Paul's getting ready to say.

Terry fox is an incredibly positive individual. It's just astounding at what he was able to suffer and go through. He was very near death but he was a Canadian hero. They said as he began to run this marathon across Canada, he dipped his prosthesis in the Bay of Fundy and started running. He ran 3,990 miles and then he collapsed with pneumonia and died some months later. But he raised $26 million in the process of running this marathon of hope. It's an incredible story.

He had a little poem in his trailer. Every night when he came in exhausted he said:

(<u>Terry Fox: His Story</u> by Leslie Scrivener)

> There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done.
> There are thousands to prophesy failure.
> There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
> The dangers that wait to assail ya.

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But buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it.
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing,
That can't be done and you'll do it.

There needs to be more of that. The positive attitude that God's in control and we're accepting whatever is coming down the pike. It's been dealt to us and we're going to make something beautiful out of it.

God gets the glory in that kind of mentality rather than us wanting to know what we're going to get.

"What does it matter? Except that in every manner…Christ is being proclaimed…"

Job 1:21

> …the Lord has given, the Lord has taken; blessed be the name of the Lord.

v. 19 For I am knowing that this shall turn out in deliverance for me through your prayer and support of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

"I am knowing that this shall turn out in deliverance for me through your prayer and support of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,"

"I know that this prison thing is just an episode in the

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program God has for my life. As you people are faithful to pray for me back there in Philippi, I'm going to get out of here. And as you're faithful to do that, it's going to happen."

Did it happen for Peter? He was sacked out and all of a sudden the angel came walking in and said, "Get your coat and shoes on. Man, we're leaving."

He popped the automatic gate open and they just walked right out. They just left everybody laying there asleep.

Acts chapter 12—He goes down to the prayer meeting to tell everybody to quit praying. They wouldn't even let him in. Everyone was praying for Peter so it can't be him! Finally they entered with great joy. God's able to open prison doors.

Paul says they're going to be praying for him and he's going to be delivered.

<u>1 John 5:14, 15</u>

> This is the confidence which we have before him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us; and if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the request which we have asked from him.

Support of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Get ready. Here comes that fabulous verse. This is the KEY VERSE to this study.

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<u>v. 20</u> according to my eager expectation and hope, that in nothing shall I be put to shame, but in all boldness, as always, also now, Christ shall be glorified in my body, whether through life or through death.

"according to my eager expectation and hope, that in nothing shall I be put to shame, but in all boldness, as always, also now,"—WHAT?

There is your GOAL—"Christ shall be glorified in my body, whether through life or through death."

Elisabeth Elliot's lost her husband in 1956. Her husband along with 4 others were martyred by the Auca Indians in Ecuador. In the final morning before making contact with the Aucas, they sang this great old hymn:

> We rest on Thee, our Shield and our Defender!
> We go not forth alone against the foe;
> Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender,
> We rest on Thee, and in Thy Name we go.

(source unknown)

"Life or death is not significant here. We're going on a mission and we totally rest in You and that which You want to accomplish."

Paul would have felt very comfortable in that company. He says, "I don't want to be put to shame because the glory of

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Christ has been wiped out of my life because I was afraid to die and because I didn't live with the glory of Christ in view."

Paul was only concerned about—wherever he was--how can You get glory out of this situation? That should be our very first question if we're living for the glory of Christ.

Lord this has happened, how can You get glory out of this situation? All I'm concerned about is You getting glory in what has just happened.

<u>Psalm 31:1, 2</u>

> In Thee, O lord, do I put my trust;
> let me never be ashamed;
> deliver me in Thy righteousness.
> Bow down Thine ear to me;
> deliver me speedily.
> Be Thou my strong rock,
> for an house of defense to save me.

It was Mary who said:

<u>Luke 1:46</u>

> My soul doth magnify the Lord.

John the Baptist said:

<u>John 3:30</u>

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> He must continually be increasing, and I must be decreasing.

Psalm 34:3

> O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

Terry Fox was stricken so by pneumonia he was unable to reach his goal. As he faced that adversity, these are some of the last words he spoke before he took off his shoes for the last time:

(Terry Fox: His Story by Leslie Scrivener)

At five miles Doug and I talked about it for a while. I cried because I knew I was going to make it or be in a hospital bed or dead. I want to set an example that will never be forgotten. It is courage and not foolishness. It isn't a waste.
(source unknown)

Doesn't that just grab you where you live? Don't you wish that some Christians would get a hold of that and say those same things?

Even on the brink of physical death with their running shoes still on, they want God's glory! They're saying, "I don't care whether I finish the race or what happens, it's His glory that counts. It's not a waste! I want this for Him."

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The hymn writer said it well:

I found a friend, O such a friend,
He bled, he died to save me.
And not alone the gift of life,
But his own self he gave me.
Not that I have mine own I call,
I hold it for the giver.
My heart, my strength, my life, my all
Are His and His alone, forever.
(source unknown)

One other writer put it this way:

And if by death to living they can Thy glory see,
I'll take my cross and follow close to Thee.
(source unknown)

"God, all I want is for You to get glory in this situation! That's the first and foremost priority in my life! I want You to have the glory."

See that's foreign! That isn't popular preaching. We aren't hearing that stuff. That doesn't bring the crowds. Jesus stood up and said, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (ref. Luke 9:23)

That separated the men from the boys. He lost a lot of audience on that one.

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All He had to do was start preaching about commitment and price. Start preaching about what it's going to cost you to be made Christlike. Then you're going to lose your audience. That's why a lot of people would rather preach something pretty soft and mealy-mouthed rather than preach it like Paul has written it.

As a result, we're rendered ineffective.

Now he talks about physical death here in these last verses.

<u>v. 21</u> For to me, to be living is Christ, and to have died, that would be a gain.

"For to me,"—Paul says—"to be living is Christ, and to have died, that would be a gain."

"It's no big deal. I'm living here for Christ and if I'm going to die, I'm going to gain more of Christ."

You can put in there whatever word you want to.

"For me to live is EDUCATION."

"For me to live is SUCCESS."

"For me to live is MONEY."

"For me to live is WHATEVER."

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But God intended it to be: "For me to live is Christ."

"So life is wonderful, but so is death because it's going to be GAIN. I'm going to be with Him!"

Christ is the center of all his life.

It's the apostle Paul who wrote:

2 Corinthians 3:18

> We Christians have no veil over our faces. We can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him, and reflect Him more and more brightly.

v. 22 But if to be living in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and what I shall choose I am not knowing.

"If to be living in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and what I choose I really don't know."

He says, "If I'm dying, I'm going to be with the Lord. If I'm going to be hanging around for a while, my hanging around is going to be"--WHAT? Retirement? KEY PHRASE—"fruitful labor."

John 15:8

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Herein is my Father glorified, by much fruit.

We titled our Joseph book *Fruitful in Affliction*. We took the name of one of his sons, Ephraim, which means "fruitful."

He's become fruitful in his affliction! While he's been in Egypt, God's given him sons. It is God's purpose, whatever happens, that we would bear fruit.

Does that take you back to verse 11? "…the fruit of righteousness…"

<u>John 15:8</u>

My Father's glorified that you bear much fruit.

Paul says, "I really can't tell you what I'd choose if I had my choice."

<u>v. 23</u> But I am being hard pressed between the two, having the desire to depart (break up camp) and to be with Christ, for it is much more better;

"I am hard pressed between the two,"—what two?

"I am hard pressed between the two,"—LIFE and DEATH—"having the desire to"—commit suicide. What's that?

"having the desire to depart (break up camp) and to be with

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Christ, for it is much more better;"

That's the only way we can translate that phrase. That isn't very good English but it does say it exactly, including all the words in the Greek text.

"I am being hard pressed between" life and death.

"having the desire"—like an Arab, to fold my tent and to silently steal away—"to depart."

To the apostle Paul, living here was living in a tent. Going over there is to go into your permanent dwelling.

"…having a desire to break up the camp and go to be with Christ, for it is much better."

Paul says in:

<u>2 Corinthians 5:8</u>

> We are absent from the body, we are present with the Lord.

Cashing in on all of our benefits! We're ready to meet Him face to face.

Can you say that? Are you ready? Are you looking forward with great anticipation?

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<u>v. 24</u> but to be remaining in the flesh is more needful (necessary) for you.

"but to be remaining in the flesh is more needful for you."

"I feel right now that God still wants me here," Paul says.

<u>v. 25</u> And having this confidence, I am knowing that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith,

"And having this confidence, I am knowing that I will remain and continue with you all for your"—WHAT?—"progress and joy in the faith,"

As we're growing and progressing in our faith, we begin to demonstrate the love of Christ, which is going to manifest the glory of Christ.

"I think I'm going to hang around for a while." Was Paul right? He hung around for a while before he left on that final trip.

Was he ready when it came time to die? We read in his last letter:

<u>2 Timothy 4:6</u>

> …the time of my departure is at hand.

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Same word—"the time of my breaking up of camp is here. I'm ready to be offered. That time is here. But I look back on my life and:"

2 Timothy 4:7, 8

> I fought a good fight, I finished the course, I kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.

Fantastic confidence and victory as the apostle faces these circumstances.

v. 26 in order that your rejoicing (glorying) may abound in Christ Jesus in me through my presence with you again.

"in order that your rejoicing (glorying) may abound in Christ Jesus in me through my presence with you again."

Here are the lessons we get out of the text.

Lesson #1: It is so important for us to see the Lord's hand in the midst of our adversity.

It is so important for us to see the Lord's hand in the midst of our adversity. And Paul could see that in his imprisonment.

That explains his positive attitude. That explains his joy. It explains the fact that he's living for the glory of Christ.

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Lesson #2: An attitude of acceptance is critical when things are difficult.

An attitude of acceptance is critical when things are difficult.

Lesson #3: It is important for us not to let someone else's conduct affect our happiness and joy in the Lord.

Lesson #4: Our goal in life should be Christ's glory.

Lesson #5: Paul's analysis of death is, it's "much more better."

Lesson #6: Death just terminates things here and starts things over there.

Are you living for His glory? It releases you from a lot of things here.

Are you enslaved by the TYRANNY OF THE TEMPORARY?

Maybe you're a SLAVE OF SILVER.

Maybe you're following the GODS OF GOLD.

You're living for everything here and now.

Or are you living for His glory?

As the Spirit of God speaks, can you see the circumstances are

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designed for His maximum and ultimate glory?

If you said yes to that, then you have a sweet spirit of humility and thankfulness. You have an attitude of acceptance. You're surrendering the guidance of your life to Him and you're going to know that He is getting the greatest glory.

Now could you make a simple statement to the Lord in prayer?

"Lord, I'm Yours. Use me for Your glory."

Can you say that and really mean it?

"Lord, make me a vessel and fill me with Your love."

Father, may these words of worship and expression from our hearts be genuine and pure. May the cry of our hearts be that this would be a Mount of Transfiguration. A mount where we behold as in a mirror the glory of the Lord. We being transformed into the self-same image of Jesus Christ, people would be reminded of Him as they see Him in us. We ask Father, that You would deal with those things that mar that image. They keep us from being free to express Your glory. May Christ truly be seen. May we be refreshed in spirit. May You give us good rest. We're reminded of Your invitation "Come unto Me all you who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me for I am meek and lowly of heart and you shall find rest for your

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souls. My yoke is easy and My burden is light." In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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A Practical Study of PHILIPPIANS

THE GOAL OF CHRISTIAN LIVING
"Important Keys to Successful, Fulfilled Living"

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GOAL NUMBER TWO – THE GLORY OF CHRIST – PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

KEY VERSE 1:20

v. 12 Now I am desiring you to know, brethren, that the things concerning me (my imprisonment) have turned out rather in the progress of the gospel,
v. 13 so that it has become evident that my imprisonment (bonds) are because of Christ in the whole Praetorian Guard and to all the rest,
v. 14 and the great majority of the brethren, having become confident in the Lord through my imprisonment (bonds), are more abundantly bold to speak the word of God without fear.
v. 15 Certain ones, indeed, are preaching Christ even because of envy and strife, but also certain others because of good will;
v. 16 some indeed out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;
v. 17 but others out of a self-seeking spirit are proclaiming Christ, not from pure motives, thinking to raise up additional afflictions to my imprisonment (bonds).
v. 18 What does it matter? Except that in every manner, whether in pretense or truth, Christ is being proclaimed; and in this I am rejoicing, and I shall certainly continue to be rejoicing.
v. 19 For I am knowing that this shall turn out in deliverance for me through your prayer and support of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
v. 20 according to my eager expectation and hope, that in nothing shall I be put to shame, but in all boldness, as always, also now, Christ shall be glorified in my body, whether through life or through death.

NOTES

NOTES

v. 21 For to me, to be living is Christ, and to have died, that would be a gain.
v. 22 But if to be living in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and what I shall choose I am not knowing.
v. 23 But I am being hard pressed between the two, having the desire to depart (break up camp) and to be with Christ, for it is much more better;
v. 24 but to be remaining in the flesh is more needful (necessary) for you.
v. 25 And having this confidence, I am knowing that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith,
v. 26 in order that your rejoicing (glorying) may abound in Christ Jesus in me through my presence with you again.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Philippians 1:12-26 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Where is Paul when he writes this letter? Acts 28:16

3. What has happened because of Paul's being in prison, according to verses 12-14?

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4. How are some proclaiming the gospel, and what is Paul's attitude in the matter, according to verses 15-18?

5. How is Paul going to be delivered, according to verse 19?

6. What did Paul want more than anything, according to verse 20?

7. Was Paul afraid to die? Why? (verses 21-23)

8. Why did Paul feel that he would remain alive for the present, according to verses 24-26?

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9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

_____

_____

_____

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

_____

_____

_____

<u>LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE</u>:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: It is so important for us to see the Lord's hand in the midst of our adversity.

LESSON #2: An attitude of acceptance is critical when things are difficult.

LESSON #3: It is important for us not to let someone else's conduct affect our happiness.

LESSON #4: Our goal in life should be Christ's glory.

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LESSON #5: Death just terminates things here and starts things over there.

LESSON #6: Paul's analysis of death is "much more better."

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