

INTRODUCTION

- * In our study of Paul's letter to the church of Philippi, we have considered Paul's gratefulness for the church of Philippi and their fellowship (koinwnia) in the gospel. Paul then sought to encourage them by revealing how the good news of Jesus Christ had been furthered through the afflictions and trials which he was experiencing. The Roman soldiers who were guarding him, on a rotating basis, were being exposed to, and affected by, the truth of Christ through Paul's prison testimony. Paul had been able to look beyond his circumstances to see how God was working in, and through, his life in spite of the hardships that he was experiencing.
- * Today, we see Paul build upon His testimony, and example, to exhort the believers in Philippi to remain unified (to maintain their oneness) in the proclamation of the gospel - even to the point of enduring persecution. Paul challenged them to live their lives "worthy of the gospel of Christ" and to understand that they were actually granted the privilege of suffering for the testimony of Jesus. Their persecution was for the furtherance of the gospel - like Paul, they would need to look beyond their own circumstances and set their eyes upon Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith!

INSTRUCTION

I. PAUL'S EX_____ (v. 21-26)

A. His De_____ (v. 21)

1. TO LIVE IS CHRIST! (cf. John 17:3; Philippians 3:10; Galatians 2:20; 6:14)
2. TO DIE IS GAIN! (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:1-9; 1 John 3:2)

B. His De_____ (v. 22-23)

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B. His De_____ (v. 24-26)

1. THE N_____ OF THE DECISION (v. 24-25)
2. THE B_____ OF THE DECISION (v. 25-26)
 - a. The G_____ of Their Faith
 - b. The G_____ in the Work of Christ

II. PAUL'S EX_____ (v. 27-30)

A. Remain Unified In The L_____ Of The Gospel (v. 27-28; cf. 1 Peter 2: 11-12)

B. Remain Unified In The F_____ Of The Gospel (v. 27-28; cf. John 17:21; John 13:35; Acts 2:42-44)

C. Remain Unified In The P_____ Of The Gospel (v. 29-30; cf. 1 Peter 1: 3-7; John 16: 33; 2 Tim 3: 12)

INTROSPECTION

- * What do you consider to be your highest purpose in life? Is it to glorify God and make Him known?
- * Are you committed to the proclamation of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God?
- * When you are placed in a trial, do you see it as an opportunity to make Christ known?
- * Do you consider it a "privilege" to suffer for the name of Jesus?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Read Matthew 5:2-16. Consider each of conditions that Jesus declares as blessed and their reward, or result. How do each of these relate to us - as the church - living out the gospel and expanding the Kingdom of God?