

# Philippians

A GUIDE TO JOY

## Philippians 1:19-26 – To Live Is Christ. To Die Is Gain.

May 17, 2020

*But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.*

*1 Thessalonians 4:13 (ESV)*

*What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice... Philippians 1:18 (ESV)*

### 1. Jesus rescues us from trials and death.

#### A. Paul knew his sufferings were temporary.

*...for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance... Philippians 1:19 (ESV)*

#### B. Paul knew God would use the prayers of the Philippians to help him.

*...through your prayers...*

*...The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

*James 5:16 (ESV)*

*You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many. 2 Corinthians 1:11 (ESV)*

### **C. Paul knew the Holy Spirit would provide supernatural strength for him.**

*...the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ...*

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9–10 (ESV)*

### **D. Paul was confident Jesus would not let him down.**

*...as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed,...  
Philippians 1:20 (ESV)*

*Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt,... Jude 5 (ESV)*

*...but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. Philippians 1:20 (ESV)*

## 2. Living is about honoring Christ. Death is about gaining Christ.

*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21 (ESV)*

### A. Living means the joy of bearing fruit for Christ.

*If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two... Philippians 1:22–23 (ESV)*

### B. Death is better because it means being with Christ.

My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. Philippians 1:23b (ESV)

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8 (ESV)

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
1 Corinthians 15:56–57 (ESV)

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Revelation 7:17 (ESV)

## C. Life is about helping others grow in Christ and find their joy of Christ.

But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. Philippians 1:24–26 (ESV)

### Life Group Questions

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1. In Philippians 1:19, when Paul said, "...this will turn out for my deliverance...". He was quoting Job 13:16 in the Greek Old Testament. Paul felt his sufferings and deliverance paralleled Job's story. How does the story of Job's suffering relate to Paul's sufferings? What encouragement can we take from their stories?
2. Read Philippians 1:19. Paul frequently asked for people to pray for him (Romans 15:30-31, Ephesians 6:18-19, Colossians 4:3-4, 1 Thessalonians 5:25). What does Paul's constant requests for prayer teach us about the importance of praying for one another? What practical steps can we take to pray for one another?
3. Read Philippians 1:23. Why did Paul view death as "much more better"? How does knowing a Christian's death is better than their life change the way we think about living? (See 2 Corinthians 5:1-9, Romans 8:38-39)
4. Read Philippians 1:24-26. What purpose did Paul give for remaining on earth? What does that teach us about our purpose on earth? (See Galatians 2:20, 1 Peter 1:8)
5. Paul looked at progress in the faith as getting more joy from our faith. How does knowing spiritual maturity leads to more joy change the way you think about reading the Bible, prayer, and attending church? (See 2 Corinthians 1:24)
6. This passage should motivate us to tell others about Jesus. It should motivate us to encourage Christians to find more joy from Jesus. What does telling people the good news of Jesus look like in a time of social distancing?