

Leader Corner

Honoring Christ

Philippians 1:18b-30, 2:12-18

Main Idea: Live for Christ.

In these passages, Paul exposes his reason for living: Jesus Christ. He has no other reason, goal, or purpose except to be with Christ eternally. Paul is happy whenever Christ is proclaimed, because for Paul, Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6)

Main Practice: Make Christ primary in our lives.

Main Teaching: Philippians 1:18b-30, 2:12-18

Refocus with Praise

Read, sing and/or contemplate the words to "I Then Shall Live."

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am His child and I am not afraid.
So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;
The law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion.
I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I'll dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

Your Kingdom come around and through and in me;
Your power and glory, let them shine through me.
Your Hallowed Name, O may I bear with honor,
And may Your living Kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life, O may I share with honor,
And may You feed a hungry world through me.

Amen, Amen, Amen

with Prayer

Have someone pray for your time together, this study, and that group members will focus on their responsibility to live lives worthy of being called Christ followers.

1. Have someone read aloud today's scripture references.
2. Discuss any insights or questions you had after hearing Sunday's sermon.
3. In verses 1:21-23, Paul is torn between pointing others to Christ or being with Christ. What a picture of discipleship! We don't often contemplate "to depart and be with Christ." Why do you think this is? What hope, assurance and encouragement do we miss on our journey with Christ by this omission? Discuss, using John 14:2-3, 1 Corinthians 2:9, Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Peter 1:3-4, 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:2-15.
4. The first part of verse 27 tells us to live lives worthy of the gospel. Why is this important and what does it look like? Helpful scriptures: Matthew 5:16, John 14:21, Romans 12:1-2, 9-21, Colossians 1:10-12, 1 Peter 2:9.
5. The second part of verse 27 and verse 28 calls Christians to our common faith in the gospel and the value of mutual support. Why is this stressed by Paul? See Romans 1:11-12, Galatians 6:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11-18, Hebrews 10:23-25.
6. In chapter 2, verses 14+15, Paul points to one of the characteristics of a life worthy of Christ; no grumbling. In fact, he calls grumbling "a blemish, crooked and twisted." What sort of witness is a grumbling Christian? See Matthew 6:25-34, 1 Timothy 6:6-9, James 5:9, and 1 John 2:15-17.

Encourage one another to remember that those without Christ often judge our faith by what they observe in our lives. Therefore, live worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Take a few moments to silently pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one person you can demonstrate or proclaim the love of Jesus. Share that name with the group and then collectively pray over each name.

For Further Focus

Salvation is often viewed in three parts: justification (a work of Christ done for us and in place of us, in the past), sanctification (a work of Christ's spirit in us now), and glorification (a work of God, to be finished in the future in eternity). I believe Paul is talking about the sanctification part of our salvation in verses 2:12-13. We have the desire and ability to obey Christ because Christ's spirit, the Holy Spirit, is in us. Do you agree? For help, see John 15:4-5, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 3:16-19, and Philippians 1:6.