

Philippians 1:12-26 Discussion Questions

Outline of Pastor Mike's Sermon

Intro

- Video interview of Tim Matson
- Prayer for Tim and Ana
- Discussing liturgy
 - Read Philippians 2.5-11
 - *5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
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 - A Matter of Life and Death (18c-26)

More Than Just Preaching (v.12-18b)

- The progress of the Gospel is Paul's primary concern
 - Advancing in the midst of the imperial guard
 - Emboldening believers to proclaim
- Two groups of preachers
 - Not unfaithful doctrine, even if there is deep disagreement
 - Not pragmatic, but priority- the advance of the Gospel is more important than any personal slights

A Matter of Life and Death (18c-26)

- Deliverance is not limited to release from prison; typically Paul's understanding of deliverance pertains to eschatological deliverance- standing before the Lord with no fear of his judgment
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Implications

- Suffering and death do not hinder the Gospel, they unleash it

- To be Gospel-centered is not just a manner of preaching and teaching, but the foundation of the way we live and think

Discussion Questions

Read Philippians 1:12-26

1. The priority of the gospel is a key idea in this text. One way that we see this is in Paul's willingness to endure personal injury and insult—even from other Christians—for the sake of the gospel spreading (vv. 15-18). Apparently, there were some who were in competition with Paul and saw his imprisonment as an opportunity to outshine his ministry.

- a. What can we learn from Paul's example?
- b. How might we (as congregations and as individuals) be tempted to allow personal feelings and vendettas to get in the way of the advancement of the Gospel?
- c. What truth(s) do we need to remember and embrace in order to not fall into this trap?

2. In this passage Paul makes a powerful and memorable statement: "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

- a. What does this statement mean?
- b. What does it look like to approach life (work, family, relationships, possessions, success, reputation, etc.) with this attitude?
- c. If heaven is defined by finally getting to be with Jesus, what earthly things are you tempted to value more than being with Jesus so that you'd rather stay on earth?
- d. What is it about those things that make them so alluring to you? What truths about Christ do you need to see more clearly, so that you value Jesus more?

3. One of the implications of this text is that suffering and death don't actually hinder the gospel but unleash it. This is a very sobering truth.

a. How do we live with both hope and joy as God's people in spite of this reality?

4. We see that the Gospel clearly changed both Paul's teaching, but also Paul's life. True gospel-centrality means the gospel alters us to the core of who we are.

a. How have you seen the Holy Spirit use the truth of the Gospel to change your life? More specifically, what areas has he changed?

b. What area(s) is God currently using the Gospel to transform?

c. How is he doing that?

d. How have you been responding to His work in this area?