

Scripture: Philippians 1:19-30

Notes: Paul has just told his readers don't worry about the Gospel being silenced by his imprisonment. Today he continues by presenting his own testimony and continues challenging them to continue in the faith.

I. Paul realizes the source of his strength. (19) *For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,* This shows us the importance of prayer. He is telling them I feel the prayer power behind me. He also says I know the Holy Spirit is empowering me. **Dr. Gutzke writes:** *We wish all men were right with God, and so we are inclined to offer the promises to God to all men without having the authority to do so. I cannot promise blessing to a man who is walking away from God. There is no blessing for him. If I were honest, I would tell him he is headed for destruction. It is such an easy thing to emphasize "being saved by faith" ... "it will not cost you anything, you can really have it. When I do this in such a broad easy way, I omit the aspect of obedience. Believing in God involves obedience. In order to experience the power of Christ you must be obedient to His word.*

II. Paul desired to magnify Christ with his life. (20-21) *According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* He is saying no matter what happened to him he wanted Christ to be lifted up. He was ready to die or live for him. Dr. Wendall Calder had a great outline on these verses.

A. Christ is the substance of life. This is based on relationship. He knew Christ was in him, guiding him, encouraging him. He did not just know about Jesus he knew him personally. That is an offer to each of us. When we get saved we get eternal life but God wants us to get so much more. He offers fellowship.

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* Faith is trusting and believing in something real. Jesus is real, we can count on Him. We can't see Him but he finds ways to let us know He's there.

B. Jesus is the source of life. John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.* That is physical life but how about spiritual life. **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* We are born again through faith giving us everlasting spiritual life.

C. Living for Christ means surrendering and often suffering for Him. Dr. Calder calls this fulfillment in this life is through our relationship with Jesus. Paul wrote in **Romans 12:1** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.* He had given his body to serving Jesus to the degree that he could write with confidence **Galatians 2:20** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.* His life was lived as the Christ living in him reached out to other people. He also knew the power of inward renewal. **2 Corinthians 4:15-18** *Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal;*

but the things which are not seen are eternal. The inward man is renewed daily so Paul can endure the suffering.

2. Dying for Christ.

1. **Death was a release.** His part of the work God gave him to do would be over. Later he would write in **2 Timothy 4:7-8** I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2. **There is the reality of future resurrection.**

3. **Promise of a reunion.** **John 14:2-3** In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. Paul was looking forward to being with Jesus.

III. Paul believes his purpose for living is to help the believers grow in faith. (22-24)

1. **Paul put the believers needs above his own.** (22-24) **But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.** Paul has a desire to be in heaven with Jesus but he feels the call to stay so he can help teach truths given directly to him by God. In reality his life was difficult but still felt needed. If we are still here God has a plan for us. One idea is that the only time we can earn eternal rewards is while we are on earth but I don't think that is what Paul is thinking about. He is considering what Christ could do for other believers and lost folks through him. If it meant he had to stay and suffer so be it; as long as Christ was magnified.

III. Paul wanted folks to live for Christ no matter what. (27-30)

1. **We are to walk in the newness of life.** **Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;** The word conversation means lifestyle; how we live after we are saved. **Romans 6:4** **Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** This newness is living according to Bible. Dr. Calder said Paul would have to backslide significantly to fellowship with the average Christian.

2. **We are to rejoice in our suffering.** **And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.** Paul counted it a privilege to suffer for Christ and he urged the folks and us to view it as a privilege as well. Peter says it this way in **1 Peter 3:13-15** **And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:** Faithfulness in the face of persecution opens the door for witnessing. A life lived in the power of Christ attracts folks to Christ. Make sure that when folks look at your life they see the hope within so that when they ask for the reason you will be able to tell the truth about Jesus.