



Asking For A Friend

Disagreeing With The World, How Do I Love and Live In It?

Part 2

Philippians 1:15-30, ESV
Week of February 21, 2021

Before Connect Group

- Philippians 1:15-30, ESV
 - Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>
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Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. 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, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus

Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 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.

My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. 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. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Philippians 1:15-30, ESV

Sermon Notes

We all want to matter and we often, in the end, think we matter for something lesser than mattering for the greatness and elevation of Christ all around us.

Throughout this series we have striven to proclaim the Gospel through the basic conversations from questions asked for a friend. We build on the previous thoughts of how we should interact with the world if I am a believer. We know we are opposed to the world and the world hates us because it hates Jesus Christ. Yet, we still have to live in this world as witnesses to the glory of God to the world around us. The power of the Gospel comes from the world's opposition to us.

We made three basic observations last week, (1) You are opposed to the world (2) You interact with the world by loving it in the pattern of Christ (3) You live in it as one being sanctified by the Spirit every day for the Glory of God to be displayed in your life. This leads us to continue to understand the question; "How do we live out the pattern of Love that Christ set for us?"

We Pour Ourselves Out (The Example of Paul)

We all have a limit to how much we feel we can pour ourselves out. And everyone has limits to their ability to continue to pour out. As we pour ourselves out, we look first to Jesus Christ.

Christ Becomes More

- Philippians 1:15-18
- Though Paul's situation may be somewhat unique, his heart that is on display is the goal. Even though we may be persecuted, things may be difficult, and other troubles may arise, we pour ourselves out for the sake of the Gospel.
- We live our lives so consumed with living out the Gospel in order that, regardless of whatever happens to me and my life, Christ will be proclaimed!
- *John 3:25-30 Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease."*
- Christ is being glorified and can take any of it and choose to use it to build up what He wants, how He wants it.
- Our goal should be to live a legacy of people drawing closer to God
- Grandfathers and Grandmothers, is this your lasting hope for your children and grandchildren?
- Fathers and mothers, is this your thought at the end of a long work day as you drive home?
- We all want to matter and we often, in the end, think we matter for something lesser than mattering for the greatness and elevation of Christ all around us.
- All my efforts must dissolve in order that Christ might be made much!
- We don't always see it, but our good intentions and efforts to build our legacy are often just a darkened veil over the Gospel of Christ that lives in us.

Life of Serving Christ That Seals Our Future Joy.

- Philippians 1:19-20
- Paul is echoing the voice of Job to align righteous suffering with a life pleasing to God.
 - *Job 13:13-19 "Let me have silence, and I will speak, and let come on me what may. Why should I take my flesh in my teeth and put my life in my hand? Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face. This will be my salvation, that the godless shall not come before him. Keep listening to my words, and let my declaration be in your ears. Behold, I have prepared my case; I know that I shall be in the right. Who is there who will contend with me? For then I would be silent and die.*
- We will pour our lives out, even in shame, if it means that Christ will be glorified.
- *Philippians 1:21-22a: "To live is Christ and to die is gain..."*
- Not only does living a life consumed with glorifying Christ fulfill obedience and even a desire within us, but it also puts us in a position of 100% gain!
- There is nothing that can shake a Christian off of the Gospel that will force them to cease to proclaim the Gospel. Nothing should stop us from our proclamation of the Gospel until the day that the Lord decides to bring us home. Giving our life and our breath to anything else is a waste of the gift that God has given us.
- While this is true, it for some reason becomes very difficult to actually do this and live our lives in a manner in this way. The word you are reading here from Paul are words of experience and perspective from one who has lived year after year serving the Lord through thick and thin, through successes and failures.
- You do not read these words of Paul, get your head right, then embark on a life serving the Lord as if it was simply something you needed to work out in your head. You can only understand the words of Paul here when you have dedicated yourself to live a life of serving the Lord to the end of your flesh. You walk away with the beautiful reward of the tumultuous investment.
- May we be able to join Paul in proclaiming for all those in our lives... Phil. 2:17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. May we be poured out for our family, our neighbors, our co-workers, and our acquaintances.
- This difficult life seems too much simply because it is. The Scriptures do not assume anyone could take on a life of this kind of Joy within their own conviction. It is only by the Gospel work of Christ and the fellowship of the Church we can stand firm.

We Fill Ourselves Up (His Command To The Church)

It is only by the Gospel work of Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the church that we can stand firm. We not only pour ourselves out, but we fill ourselves up.

Fellowship:

- Philippians 1:27
- One of the greatest lies of our culture today is that you are supposed to do this alone.
- Even Paul admits his need for fellowship.
- *Philippians 1:3-5 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.*
- Not just that you are a fellow Christian, but because you have "partnered" with me.

Confession:

- Philippians 1:27b
- Confession of faith, a confession that we believe we were sinners and that we have been saved by Jesus Christ, and we publicly invite the people of God to hold you accountable to follow after Jesus Christ.
- We celebrate this confession of faith through baptism which is the public proclamation of our faith for others.
- Many, though, treat this one public confession of faith as the only confession we need. However, this is not where our faith ends but where our faith begins.
- Active Sanctification through ongoing confession to a brother and believer.
- Ongoing personal confession, Gospel work of the Cross, Submitting to the wisdom of Gospel fellowship (Church discipline)

Staying in the fight:

- Philippians 1:28-30
- Yes, the ongoing fight provides fuel for your life in Christ. We do not run from the fight but engage in the battle together as the body of Christ. We seek the joy of the Lord because God is love.
- *James 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing*
- *1 Peter 1:3-7 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*
- Even in the face of difficulties, trials, or the life changing events of the world these will only give glory to God. These things are meant to produce in us a faith to be glorified for Christ's sake.

We preach the Gospel, die, and be forgotten. This is the life we are called to live. It is better than any name on a building, any legacy we could live. Furthermore, it is greater than any sin or shame we may have endured or experienced. The greatest and most glorious thing, no matter where we have been or what we have done, we can preach the Gospel, die, and be forgotten.

Connect Group Discussion Questions

- When you hear the quote by Zinzendorf, "Preach Tthe Gospel, die, and be forgotten" how do you respond to hearing these words?
- In what ways does the text of Philippians 1:15-30 talk about the being willing to endure difficulties for the sake of the Gospel? What things do you see that
- Do What is the easiest part of fellowship and confession? What is the most difficult part of fellowship and confession?
- Why is it important to continually work to fill ourselves up? What happens when we continually pour ourselves out without filling ourselves up?
- Why do we tend to resist fellowship with the believers and confession?
- What happens when we try and go alone? What is the benefit of living out our life with the body of believers in fellowship and confession?

Challenge For The Week

We live in this world as people who seek to pour out all we have for the sake of the Gospel and be filled up through the mutual uplifting of the one another in pursuit of the glory of God together. .

- Are you in a Discipleship Relationship with someone and do you regularly confess your faith and your sins to those around you (given the circumstance)? If not, consider starting a discipleship relationship with someone.
- Where are you seeking to pour out your faith? Who in your life are you actively working to share the Gospel with and share your story of coming to Jesus Christ?

