

Philippians 1: Far Better

January 10th, 2021 by Kasey Crawford

Today's Passages: Phil 1:1-30, Acts 16:6-16, Matt 13:44

Background:

Paul is in prison. It is around 62 AD, he has been walking with Jesus in life and ministry for almost 30 years. He is on lockdown, house arrest. His future is uncertain. He is awaiting trial before the court of Rome.

So he has some time to reflect and write to a few of the churches that he has planted. The Church at Philippi was founded by Paul and Silas on Paul's 2nd Missionary journey around 49-50 AD in the house of Lydia.

If you were unjustly imprisoned for being a Christian, what would your outlook on things be? What would your attitude be?

Yes, and I will rejoice,¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance...
Philippians 1:18-19

In summary he says: "I've got joy because I am confident that one way or another God will bring good out of this."

That is a really attractive testimony. That is powerful. That speaks to an internal, spiritual power that is very rare.

So where does this good fruit come from?

Paul has a clear _____ and a purpose-filled _____ about something of utmost _____ (**Philippians 1:18-25**).

Paul's _____: Christ will be honored

"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." Phil 1:20

He has clarity on his ultimate "why?"

Paul's _____: to live is Christ, and to die is gain
"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil 1:21

He has very clear purpose: as long as he is alive, to live is all about Christ.

Paul's _____: to depart and be with Christ...is far better
"My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better."
Phil 1:23

He has encountered God enough to know that a living, active, vibrant relationship with God is far better than anything else life has to offer.

_____ of what Paul has encountered is for _____ of us.

I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith... 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,³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. Philippians 1:25, 29-30

Philippians is the genuine testimony of a person who has been passionately walking with Jesus and serving God for almost 30 years, and the fruit of his life is attractive.

Be encouraged. Be challenged. God wants all of us to experience Him in this kind of depth and power.

Responding to God...

Have you experienced that knowing God is "far better" than anything else?

How does Paul's testimony encourage you? Challenge you? Scare you?

Answers: vision, mission, value, vision, mission, value, all, all