
Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: <https://www.abfboone.com/sermons/>
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Philippians 1:12-30

[12] I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, [13] so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. [14] And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

[15] Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. [16] The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. [17] The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. [18] 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, [19] for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, [20] 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. [21] For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. [22] If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. [23] I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. [24] But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. [25] Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, [26] so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

[27] 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, [28] 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. [29] 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. (ESV)

Sermon Outline:

Life Group Leader Notes:



Weekly Discussion Guide

- Pastor Cam began with a story of how this passage impacted him. What is your experience with this passage in Philippians? Does it carry any special meaning to you? Do you have any other passages of Scripture that have made an impact on your life?

- We are often under the impression that our lives will get *better* after we become a Christian. And in a sense, they do. But they might not get easier. In fact, when we give our lives to Christ, we will face a tremendous amount of spiritual resistance - from our flesh and from our enemy. What do you do when trials come your way, when life tries to steal your joy? Do you ever consider the possibility of *rejoicing* in your suffering? Do you have a testimony of when this happened?

- As we learned a few weeks ago, Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ. He was God's appointed messenger to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth. But when he wrote Philippians, he was sitting in a prison cell. It *seemed* like the advance of the gospel had come to a screeching halt. But in this letter, Paul was clear that the gospel was still advancing. How did it advance? How does this truth encourage you in your suffering? (Do you feel spiritually useless right now? Do you think God is still advancing the gospel in your suffering?)

- Pastor Cam said that when you give your life to evangelism, you will always have to sacrifice something. He referenced the Afghanistan Christians who had registered as Christians - and Paul who was fully known as a Christian to the imperial guard. This is a worthy sacrifice because knowing and proclaiming Christ is better than anything this world has to offer. Are you sacrificing for the sake of the gospel, or playing it safe? Are there people in your life that need to know that you are a Christian? Did this text challenge you this week?

- Paul had the expectation that he would be delivered, either through life or death. *To live is Christ, to die is gain*. Do you have this same expectation in these crazy times? Think about what you are living for. Have you put something above Christ? How do you think about death? Is it gain for you or is it your worst fear? How does the gospel transform us?

- Suffering is a gift. We might not understand why we are given suffering in the moment (like a dad who gives his child a set of jumper cables), but one day we will understand. How does this encourage you, and help you to rejoice in suffering?

- Pastor Cam said that we are better when we live at a deficit. Have you found this to be true in your own life? Why do you think this is?

- At the end of the sermon, Pastor Cam brought up the point that we rejoice in our sufferings *together*. We preach the truth to one another and constantly remind each other of the gospel. Who are you encouraging in the gospel right now? Who is encouraging you? If you do not have anyone, what steps can you take to make that happen?

