

Sermon Discussion 27 September 2020

Read Philippians 1:18b-30 together.

Dig Deeper

Paul did not want to feel ashamed when he stood before the Lord for the life he lived. When he uses the phrase “*my eager expectation and hope*” it probably means “*my hope-filled eager expectation.*” With the prayer support of the Philippians and the Holy Spirit’s enablement, he was confident of his success. Nevertheless, he felt the need for courage. After all, he still had to stand before Caesar and undergo a Roman trial. His greatest desire, however, was that he would continue to exalt Jesus Christ whether that meant that he live or die.

The use of the passive “*be honoured/be exalted*” rather than the active “*I honour/exalt Christ*” is unusual. It reflects Paul’s conviction that essentially the Christian life involves following the leading of God’s indwelling Spirit rather than seizing the initiative and doing things for God (see Galatians 5:18).

1. Have you ever had your “definition of life” removed from you? If so, how did you respond?
2. Honestly complete the sentence: For me, to live is _____?
3. How does the story of Job relate to Paul’s situation in prison? What encouragement can we take from both of their stories?
4. Is it overly simplistic to say, “Christ is all we need for our emotional and psychological wholeness”?
5. What does this passage teach us about the importance of intercessory prayer?
6. Can you say “for me, to live is Christ” with confidence? What can you do this week to begin to understand what it means to have Christ define your life?

Application & Prayer

- Choose a verse from this section that would be most helpful for you to commit to memory.
- Verses 21-26 describe Paul’s personal mission statement of his life. In your own words, write out a mission statement for your life. How would you answer the question, “Why am I here?”