

BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT ARE WE LIVING FOR?

It is comforting and encouraging to hear from Apostle Paul this week. Here was a man who went on 3 missionary journeys, founded a few churches, preached and taught many people, stoned, misunderstood by his fellow leaders, drove out demons, falsely accused and sent to prison. All on the account of Jesus Christ.

Epic. He must have had a great reception in heaven.

Lest we get the wrong idea that his adventure-packed life is normative, a 72 year old woman who accepted Christ late in her life could not possibly be expected to do all that.

Although what Paul did was important and glorified God, he himself declared that his passion is Christ 'to live is Christ and to die is gain'.

As alluded to in the illustration during the sermon, our life on earth is too short to be lived on the 'too tame, too lame, too same' motto.

Live for Jesus.

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WARMING UP

1. It has been said that the things that we think about most of the time are the things we idolize. What are some of the things that preoccupy us?
2. How does our love for Christ compare with Paul's love for Christ?

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read Philippians 1:12-14, 4:22, John 17:4 - The work that God gave Paul to do

3. What were the circumstances in which Paul wrote this letter?
4. What happened among Paul's captors (Phil 4:22)?

Read Philippians 1:15-26 - The passion that God gave Paul

5. What or who was Paul's passion?
6. How was the passion translated (verse 22)? To whom was the passion directed (verse 24)? What was the goal of the passion (verse 25)?

Read various passages to discover the processes that God put Paul through to develop the passion for living

7. Fellowship. Who founded the church in Philippi (Acts 16)? How would you describe Paul's relationship with the church? (Phil 1:3 Everytime I think of you..; Phil 1:7 ..you have a special place in my heart; etc..)
8. Prayer. List the instances Paul prayed for the Philippians in chapter 1 alone.
9. Leading of the Holy Spirit. How did the Holy Spirit help Paul? (Phil 1:9, 2:1, 3:3)

MOVING FORWARD

Prayer. Spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to lay on your heart what is on His, with regard to your passion.

Share with one another what the Spirit of God revealed to you and pray for one another that God will align to our passion to Jesus.

LIFE TOGETHER

Christian fellowship should be different from other fellowship in that there is sharing of the Word of God and prayer.

To take the fellowship up a level, pray and ask the Spirit how your small group can serve together. Here are some suggestions.

- Do a Foodbank packing duty together.
- Volunteer to organize the Mission month in church
- Volunteer to organize the next church retreat
- Volunteer to organize the next mass birthday celebration
- Volunteer to the logistic organizer for the church move to the new premises!

BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT ARE WE LIVING FOR?

These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read Philippians 1:12-14, 4:22, John 17:4 - The work that God gave Paul to do

3. What were the circumstances in which Paul wrote this letter?

Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians from jail in Rome. He was in jail because of the gospel of Jesus (Acts 21). Some may be tempted to stop preaching because of the threat of jail or harm, but not Paul.

4. What happened among Paul's captors (Phil 4:22)?

Even while in prison, Paul preached to all his captors. And they were no ordinary captors, the Praetorium were apparently the emperor's guards. It appears from verse 4:22 that some of his captors believed the message of Jesus Christ.

Read Philippians 1:15-26 - The passion that God gave Paul

5. What or who was Paul's passion?

It is clear that Jesus is Paul's passion. At one time, Paul had the wrong passion which was to persecute Christians. When Christ came into Paul's heart, Jesus gave Paul a different (& holy passion).

6. How was the passion translated (verse 22)? To whom was the passion directed (verse 24)? What was the goal of the passion (verse 25)?

Passion meant fruitful labour for Jesus (v 22). How many are labouring passionately for Jesus?

Paul was labouring for the Philippians Christians. We are to be partners with God to build His church.

Growth in the lives of the Christians and joy of faith. The goal of Paul's ministry (and ours) is maturity among Christians.

Read various passages to discover the processes that God put Paul through to develop the passion for living

7. Fellowship. Who founded the church in Philippi (Acts 16)? How would you describe Paul's relationship with the church? (Phil 1:3 Everytime I think of you..; Phil 1:7 ..you have a special place in my heart; etc..)

Paul founded the Philippians church in his second missionary journey. Some commentary wrote that 12 years have elapsed from the founding of the church to Paul's imprisonment, so they have a long history. The church has been a good partner with Paul in preaching the gospel (1:5). The church remained loyal to Paul and sent Epaphroditus (2:25-30) to encourage Paul and possibly to give him some funds. The basis for their fellowship is Lordship in Jesus, a love for the Church and a passion to build the church.

Likewise, we have developed close fellowship with one another as we sought to build BCEC.

8. Prayer. List the instances Paul prayed for the Philippians in chapter 1 alone.

Prayer is showing our dependence on God. In his prayers, Paul demonstrated a clear understanding that the church belongs to Christ. It was Christ who started the work and it is Christ who is doing the work and it will be Christ who will complete the work. Note also the fruit of salvation (1:11). True salvation will result in righteous character that will glorify God.

9. Leading of the Holy Spirit. How did the Holy Spirit help Paul? (Phil 1:9, 2:1, 3:3)

The Holy Spirit will guide Paul in what to say and do. The Holy Spirit fellowship with Paul. The Holy Spirit helped Paul worship God.