

STUDY ON JOURNEY THROUGH PHILIPPIANS (1:12-30)

Journey Together 2025 Weekly Sermon Series

Warming Up... Are you competitive? Can there ever be healthy competition? What about rivalry? When does it become bad and dangerous?		Aims & Objectives of today's session: The main take away is that we are all in this together, there is a goal and there is good. Partnership for the gospel is key.
Fundamental Truths 1. Read Philippians 1:12-30. 2. What do we know about the background of this passage? What is happening with Paul writing this letter? 3. What are the two not-so-great things mentioned by Paul in v15. Why do you think these are bad? What does Paul say? 4. Do we ever envy or have rivalry over certain things? Can it ever be justified? 5. What about for the gospel-what's the best way to preach the gospel?	Challenging Depth 1. What is the gospel, in a nutshell? 2. Read Philippians 1:12-30. Paul mentions the "imperial guard." What do we know about them from Paul's context? 3. What does Paul mention about "envy and rivalry"? What examples and comparisons does he give shortly after? 4. Why does Paul rejoice in v18? 5. What does it mean when Paul says "to live is Christ and to die is gain"? What does this mean in today's terms compared with the context Paul wrote in? 6. What does "standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel" look like exactly? What are some practical ways we can do to demonstrate this on a day to day basis? 7. Paul talks about troubles coming and how we should suffer for the sake of Christ. How easy or hard is this in practice? Why? Can you give any examples of troubles you have experienced or witnessed in others? 8. How can you be sure you will see Christ when you die? How can your day to day life reflect that you are truly following Jesus?	Background: To preach from envy and rivalry, is basically to preach with wrong motives, which reveals an impure heart. This does not come from a place that God is pleased with. We need to remember that we are all in this together, for God's good and God's goal. This is the gospel partnership we wish to encourage. When Paul says "to live is Christ and to die is gain" he is fundamentally saying there is the opportunity to advance the gospel and continue the good work here on earth, yet to die would be a gain because it means being in heaven with God for eternity. For us, hardships might come along, but as long as we are steadfast in God, holding fast to Him, here for the gospel, then we will remain secure in Him.
Concluding in Prayer Break off into twos or threes, and discuss these statements Pastor Bert mentioned: "If you're not partnering for the gospel, then you'll leave at hardship. If you're here for the gospel, then at hardship you'll lean into the partnerships." What does this mean? What about for you, personally speaking? Can you relate or not? Why? What hardships have come your way that you need praying over? Spend some time praying with each other over these things shared, and for each other to cling dearly to the gospel.		Homework / Challenge for this week Challenge yourself this week to research and find out about a "gospel partnership" initiative/project/missionary. Be prepared to share about it next week! Look for ways to pray for them/the project too.
		Ending with prayer Lord may you help us to remain steadfast and abiding in You. May we keep sharing your love to those around us, and may we know how to support those in gospel partnerships. We want to keep partnering to continue your good work. And may we keep leaning into You. Amen.