

Small Group Discussion Guide: Philippians series – Week 2
Available online at www.summitchurch.cc/summitlife

Philippians 1:12 - 30

Leader's Notes

This week the 2nd half of chapter 1 gives us a lot to cover. The major themes that emerge will be the uninhibited advancement of the gospel and the foundation & the summary of Paul's life (v.21). Before jumping in, we suggest praying back through 1:9-11. Pray Paul's prayer for each-other as well as for the Summit Church. As usual, the answers to the questions below are on the next page. For additional commentary from our team, see the "supplemental material" available on our website.

READ 1:12 – 18

1. The theme of these 6 verses is the gospel advancing in all circumstances, even the most dire ones. In what ways in Paul's particular circumstance was the gospel advanced? Given his drive to spread the gospel to everyone, If Paul switched places with you who in your life would he be telling about Christ (Remember, Paul didn't care about his rep, just about the advancement of the gospel)?

READ 1:19 - 26

2. This section really culminates in verse 21 "To live is Christ, to die is gain." What does Paul mean when he says "to live is Christ?" How do you see "to live is Christ" played out in Paul's life (see 1 Corinthians 4:9-13)? What would it look like for you to adopt a "to live is Christ" credo in your life? Give specific examples.

READ 1:27 – 30

3. What motivates Paul to live in a manner worthy of Christ? Why is this significant?

Answers

1. 4 ways: 1) it was evident Paul was imprisoned FOR CHRIST. So his conviction itself was an advancement of the gospel. 2) It was in prison that he wrote this letter and others. From a cell, the gospel went out to people all over the known world. 3) The way they guarded him (chained to a guard) afforded him the opportunity to share Christ with a different person every day. 4) Others were emboldened by Paul's example in prison and went out and preached the gospel.

2. "To live is Christ" means to completely set aside ones self for the purposes and glory of Christ irrespective of what that may mean for the consequences that may bring upon you (Galatians 2:20). You see that in his imprisonment for preaching the gospel. Maybe an easy place to see it all is in 2 Corinthians 11:23 - 29. What does that look like for you? Example from Spence: Everything thing I do (if I hold to this) I do with the intent to put Christ on display. I love my wife well IN ORDER TO PUT THE GOSPEL ON DISPLAY!

3. Romans 12:1 says "in view of God's mercies" , in view of the love lavished on us we live in a manner worthy of Christ because we want to! The manifestation of our response to the gospel is our behavior. You see this also in Chapter 2:1-6 of Philippians. This is significant because right here we have to understand the difference between Gospel & Religion. Behavior FOLLOWS an understanding of Grace. Behavior does not create an understanding of grace.