



Philippians 1:18-30 “Gospel Courage”
September 18th, 2016

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Philippians 1:18-30

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. Beginning in verse 12, Paul moves from his prayer for the Philippians (v.1-11) to a report, updating them on his present situation (v.12-18) and future outlook (v.19-29). What is the overall tone of his future outlook?
2. In verse 18, Paul says that he will rejoice, regardless of what happens in the future. How does this challenge you? Do you allow your trials to cause you to pout or pray? What trials can you take to God in prayer now?
3. Verse 21 is one of the most well-known verses in Scripture. What is Paul expressing in these verses, as he sits in prison, awaiting trial? What does he seem to hope happens, according to verse 24?
4. How could Paul view death as “far better”? Is the way that most of us think? Do you view death this way? Why or why not?
5. For what purpose would Paul remain on earth? How does this passage motivate you to live and serve others?
6. How does Paul exhort the Philippians to live together and live courageously in verses 27-30? How does this apply to us as his people?

Imagine Paul’s conversations with the guards:

Guard: We’re going to kill you.

Paul: That’s great! Dying is gain!

Guard: Ok, we’ll allow you to live.

Paul: Fantastic! I’ve got work to do.

Guard: We’re going to make you suffer.

Paul: That’s fine- the sufferings of this world are not worth comparing to the glory that’s coming. It would fill me with joy to suffer for Jesus!

Paul’s outlook made him unstoppable.

NEXT STEPS

- ☀ How would you complete this sentence: “To live is _____.” What is the main thing that you are living for? Why does this matter for you today?
- ☀ Paul had an unstoppable mentality. Can we share in this perspective on life? If so, how would your daily life be different?
- ☀ Take a moment to read St. Patrick’s prayer, printed on the back of this page. Make it your prayer this week, as you face trials and difficulties with courage.



Philippians 1:18-30

[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.

St. Patrick's Prayer:

As I arise today, may the strength of God pilot me, the power of God uphold me, the wisdom of God guide me. May the eye of God look before me, the ear of God hear me, the word of God speak for me. May the hand of God protect me, the way of God lie before me, the shield of God defend me, the hose of God save me. May Christ shield me today. Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit, Christ when I stand, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who thinks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me. Amen.