

Philippians 1.19-30

Eager Expectation

Living Will? Who can pull the plug on me? How much guilt will carry?

Do want to Spend ½ Life Savings > Heroic End of Life Interventions?

Drool in Diapers in Hospital Bed another Week?

What is Purpose of Life? Where am I Going when it is Over? PAUL say?

1<sup>st</sup> C > 2 Popular Philosophies > Stoics & Epicureans / Acts 17: ATHENS

Life is Chance – Find Balance between PAIN & PLEASURE

EPICUREANS > ENJOY Life // STOICS = ENDURE LIFE!

Epicureans: Most Educated, Wealthy, Elite / Deist: God Distant, Irrelevant

STOICS = ENDURE LIFE! Most POPULAR Gk Philosophy

PANTHEISTS – God in ALL / FATE is Controlled – you must SUBMIT

Que sera, sera, ‘what will be will be.’

Philippians 1 Speaks to Foundational Questions – Life, God, Purpose

Build Life on Firm Foundation > Risen Lord > UNWAVERING JOY

Locked in Prison – Rivals Preach Wrong Motives > Christ is Proclaimed!

Joy based on What he Knows, What Anticipates, What X means to him

## 1. Confidence in God's Purpose

a. Deliverance Prison ROME – Preliminary Trial went Well >> NEXT??

v. 19 Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance

Deliverance > Sometimes = Salvation > from Death & Hell, Satan

HERE > More Immediate Salvation > Get OUT of Jail! FREE to Serve!

CREDIT > PRAYERS of Philippians / HELP of Holy Spirit

Paul is suggesting that the presence of the Spirit will be supplied to Paul through the prayers of the Philippians in some mysterious way. Frank Thielman

What Difference OUR Prayers making for NATIONS – Here @ Home?

Spirit of Jesus Christ / Spirit of God / Holy Spirit > NT > TRINITY

ONE God: Fully Revealed in Father, Son, Holy Spirit eternal Fellowship

b. **Death** > Sooner or Later Paul would Cross the Final River, US too!

Execution for Treason REAL Possibility > BODY Killed by Gov't??

Plenty Time THINK! BODY given by God – All Life FROM God, FOR?

Grew RESOLVE to Give GLORY to Maker – Creator, Savior, Redeemer

v. 20 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.

Eager Expect & Hope: 1 X Romans 8 Creation YEARNNS 4 Full Salvation

Victory NOT Determined by Roman Court > Sovereign, Holy God

Joni Eareckson Tada @ 17 dove Chesapeake Bay broke Neck 2 yrs Rehab

Wheelchair > PULPIT Reaching ALL Around World – Millions People

Been in Wheelchair for 60 yrs > 77! Utterly Helpless, God's Daily Grace!

Natural IF we are Ashamed > Want be Vindicated > Paul Shame in CELL

Confident of Ultimate Vindication/Honor, NOT for Self, but SAVIOR

Purpose "Christ will be honored" even thru Paul, Joni & Our Suffering

Prefers Death – v. 23 "I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better."

"departing" – word used by Soldiers = 'take down tent and move on'

Sailors = 'loosen a ship and set sail' / Lord Tennyson 'Crossing the Bar'

Political = 'setting a prisoner free' / Farmer = 'unyoke the oxen'

David Psalm 25 "O my God, in you I trust, let me not be put to shame,  
let not my enemies exult over me"

c. **Duty** > Not Know Final Day – Duty to Live Each Day for His Honor

Many Opinions: "For me to live is money, to die is to leave it all behind"

"For me to live is fame and to die is to be forgotten"

"For me to live is power and to die is to lose it all"

v. 21 For to me to live is X & to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.

vs. 24-26 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

v 20 “with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body”

Paul NOT Afraid of Life OR Death > Greatest Desire Magnify X w Body!

Remain Alive – Continue Serving Xtian Church, incl Philippi

Does God NEED to be Magnified? How can HUMAN magnify Almighty?

STARS much Bigger than Telescope > Telescope brings them CLOSER!

Believer’s Body BE Telescope bring JESUS CHRIST closer to People!

Microscope makes Tiny Things BIG > Unbeliever: Jesus is Very SMALL

Most People in KOHALA Jesus X misty, far-away, Not Very Big!

YOU Bring Jesus Close & Clear to People > Honor Him, Live for Him

Xtian = LENS: LITTLE X look BIG / DISTANT X comes CLOSE thru U!

## 2. Character of God’s People

Many Think: “Does Not matter what you Believe, only how you Behave”

Bible: What we BELIEVE determines How we BEHAVE

Importance of Holding the GOSPEL Faithfully / Lose Gospel then Church

Local Church ONE Generation away from becoming a Museum

No Wonder SATAN Attacks Family, Young People, Abortion, Marriage

a. Consistency v. 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

Most Important Weapon against Evil Advancing: Believers Walk w God

“manner of life” = POLITICS > Way of Walking & Talking WORTHY

USA Citizen Respected & Desired > Nobody Sneaking into NIGERIA

Roman Citizenship TREASURED – Originally HAD to LIVE in Rome

Given to People who Do Good Things > Paul’s Dad, Born a Citizen??

Philippi > Roman COLONY: Citizens Romans, Protected by Roman LAW  
 SHOW our Citizenship IN Heaven when Live to Honor God of Heaven

Church Member to Pastor: We have Neighbor Not Believe, Have a Book?

Pastor 2 Corinthians 3.2 “you are our letter...known & read by all people”

Ephesians 4.1 “I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called”

You are writing a Gospel, a Chapter each Day  
 By the Deeds that you Do, and the Words that you Say.  
 Men read What you Write, whether Faithful or True  
 Just What is the Gospel, according to You? – Unknown Source

Good News > Not what WE Do – What God DONE for Us in Christ  
 Citizens of KINGDOM give Honor to our KING  
 “Behave the way Good Citizens are supposed to behave”

Mission Colleagues in Uganda > SWISS – Kids same Age as our Kids  
 Visited Them in Switz – Beautiful, Clean, Orderly, Wealthy Country!  
 Riding Ski Lift in Alps – Swiss Kid throws Paper! – Father SHOCKED!  
 “YOU are Swiss” – Throw Rubbish in Africa! – NOT what Swiss Do!

Greatest Weapon against Devil is Church Living Faithfully for Jesus!

b. Cooperation v. 27b “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”

Paul changes Illustration from Politics to ATHLETICS = “striving”

Focus on Church as TEAM > Teamwork wins Victories

Ch 4 – 2 Women Not Getting along w/ Eachother – Coconut W >> Rome!

16 X's uses word for ONE = with, together, different words for UNITY

v. 27 "standing firm in one spirit, w one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel"

NBA Teams getting Closer to Finals: Stars make All Team Better!

We are CITIZENS of Heaven so we must Walk Consistently for Christ

We are TEAMMATES w Jesus so must Cooperate w the Gospel

**c Confidence** v 28 not frightened in anything by UR opponents. This is clear sign to them of their destruction, but UR salvation & that from G

Picture HORSE Shying Away from Battle > Don't Run into a FIGHT!

We ARE in a Fight > Devil hates Jesus, You, Church, Your Future

Jealous because U have a Future – Forever w/ God – he is Going Down!

v 28 not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but your salvation and that from God

1) Battles PROVE that we are SAVED World at War w its Maker!

v. 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

GIFT to Believe AND to Suffer for Christ

Following Jesus NOT End of Troubles > Create New Troubles for Xtian

John 16.33 Jesus: "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

2) Presence of Conflict PRIVILEGE "for sake of X...believe, suffer"

"for it has been GRANTED to you" = GRACE, Gift – HOLY Honor

JESUS suffered for Us – Now we're Called to show our Love & Gratitude

3) Others Experience Same Suffering v. 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

To have Pity Party Must think You Are ALL ALONE – Abandoned!

1000 miles from Philippi – Paul suffering in Rome – Many Places in Btwn

See OUR Screen > Church around World > Stuggles Bros & Sisters in X  
 Will Not IMPROVE Human Nature by Taking Trip / Same Person On/Off  
 People where Land SAME Human Nature > Created, Fallen, Redeemed?  
 Philippians seen Paul endure Conflict w Confidence still Preach Christ!  
 Single Mind > JOY in Conflict for Gospel > Spiritual Teamwork for Faith

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**Psalm 78** - Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; // **incline your ears to the words of my mouth!** // I will open my mouth in a parable; // **I will utter dark sayings from of old,** // things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. // **We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation** // the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. // **He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,** // which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, // **that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,** // and arise and tell them to their children, // **so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;** // and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, // **a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.** // They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law. // **They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them.** // He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap. // **In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light.** // He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. // **He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.** // Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert. // **They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved.** // They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the wilderness? // **He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed.** // Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?" // **Therefore, when the Lord heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob;** // his anger rose against Israel, because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power. // **Yet he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven,** // and he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven. // **Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance.** // He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind; // **he rained meat on them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas;** // he let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings. // **And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.** // But before they had satisfied their craving, while the food was still in their mouths, // **the anger of God rose against them, and he killed the strongest of them** // and laid low the young men of Israel. // **In spite of all this, they still sinned; despite his wonders, they did not believe.** // So he made their days vanish like a breath, and their years in terror. // **When**

**he killed them, they sought him; // they repented and sought God earnestly. // They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer. Amen and Amen.**