



#2 – Philippians

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# Philippians

**October 25, 2020**  
**For me to live is Christ**

**How to have joy bursting within your heart, no matter what**

Philippians 1:12-26

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. <sup>15</sup>Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. <sup>16</sup>The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup>The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. <sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

## **1 - Life is Hard**

True Joy is not the result of a trouble-free life

## **2 - Life can be Gold**

God can **turn your common hardships** into **something great**  
... for my Personal good and Historical good

God is the only alchemist.  
Matthew Henry

1:12

... what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel  
Imperial guard was the Praetorium guard

Can you acknowledge that it is possible for hardships to be turned into Gold?

## **3 - To live is Christ**

1:21 For me to live is Christ ...

### **For me to live is Christ**

Career  
Family  
Traditions  
Morality  
Good times  
Stoic  
Hobbies

### **Fully surrender to Jesus**

**The constant, unwavering love of Jesus gave Paul contentment and joy within his heart, no matter what**



5. Fill in the blank three ways: (1) The answer you *want* to be true of you. (2) The answer you think is most true of you now. (3) The answer others would give about you. ***For me, to live is*** \_\_\_\_\_
- a. How can your G2 help you fill the blank with "Christ?"

**Diving Deeper** (Optional questions to go a little further)

1. **Read 1:11-18a.** Summarize Paul's situation. What stands out to you about people's reaction to his imprisonment? Is it what you would expect?
- a. What sorts of things are people typically concerned with in Paul's situation? What do we learn about Paul's priorities in this passage? What does he rejoice over?
- b. Paul says he was "put here" in prison. Who put him there and why? What do we learn about God's priorities or character that he would "put" Paul in this situation?
2. **Read 1:18b-26.** Paul is confident he will be delivered from Prison. He implies there are two ways this might happen. What are they?
- a. What might it look like for Paul to honor Christ in life? In death?
- b. In what ways was Christ personally familiar with situations like Paul's?

### **Closing Prayer**

1. Father, we invite the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and reveal things we find life in other than Jesus.
2. Pray for the persecuted church.
3. Keep track of requests & celebrations from others in your G2 & pray for them.