

C. And all of this is for God's glory not our own (Philippians 1:26; John 3:30; Galatians 2:20)

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18A

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.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. Why was Paul resolved to rejoice in the midst of his sufferings?
2. What did Paul mean when he said, “to live is Christ”?
3. How do we magnify Christ in both our life and death? What might it cost us to live in this way?
4. What are some distinct characteristics of fruitful, joyous, disciple-making gospel ministry?
5. Do you live each day with the kind of purpose that Paul describes in this passage? What are some ways you can remind yourself (and other gospel partners) to live with this purpose?
6. What are some practical ways we can labor in fruitful, joyous, disciple-making gospel ministry for the sake of others’ progress and joy in gospel faith at ordinary places like work, home, school, or church?