

**DATE OF MESSAGE:** September 18, 2016

**MESSAGE TITLE:** It's All About Jesus, part 2

**SCRIPTURE:** Philippians 1:18-26

### **KEY TRUTH**

As Paul contemplates the possibility of death, he reminds us that life and death are all about Jesus. Today, we will continue looking at ways Jesus is honored in our life and death.

### **GETTING STARTED**

Last Sunday, Pastor Titus described two different ways we use the word 'magnify' and how those definitions impact the way we look at this passage. One use of the word magnify can be illustrated by a microscope. A microscope magnifies something really small so that it appears larger than it really is. A telescope, on the other hand, magnifies something really large so that it appears closer and in more detail than we can see with the naked eye. Paul is alluding to the 2<sup>nd</sup> use of the word magnifies in this passage. We magnify or honor Jesus when we live like He is in control, we live as though Jesus will keep his promises and we live as though it's more important to serve others for Jesus' sake than to serve ourselves.

### **OBSERVATION**

*How does Paul show confidence in God's sovereignty in this passage? In other words, how does Paul demonstrate that he believes God is in control of his circumstances?*

*How does Paul demonstrate a confidence that Jesus will keep his promises? What promises does Paul cling to in this passage?*

*How does Paul demonstrate his willingness to put others first by serving them? What does Paul risk by 'remaining in the flesh' for the sake of the Philippian believers?*

### **APPLICATION**

*What would it look like for you to live like Jesus is actually in control of your circumstances? What problems and challenges do you believe He wants you to surrender to Him?*

*Read Isaiah 41:10. How many promises does this one verse include? Which of those promises mean the most to you at this point in your life? Why?*

*Paul believed that remaining for the benefit of the Philippian believers would please Jesus more than departing to be with Him. Is Jesus asking you to remain in a difficult situation for the benefit of others? What is Jesus asking you to do? How would serving those around you actually be serving Jesus?*

### **PRAYER**

*Dear God, I believe You are in control of the circumstances that impact my life. I believe You will keep Your promises. And I believe You want me to put others first, ahead of my own desires. Please help me align my living with my believing! Do a gracious work in me to bring my life in alignment with your desires? I trust You and want to demonstrate my faith in You by what I say and do today.*

### **SHARE POINT**

Read and review the application questions. Share with someone in your life how God's Word is changing you into a growing disciple. Encourage that person to do the same. That person could be a family member, a friend, a co-worker or a neighbor.

### **COMMENTARY NOTES**

1:19-26 Paul expresses the grounds of his confidence that he will be released from prison. He assures the Philippians that he believes he will remain alive to minister to them.

1:19 Paul who has prayed for the Philippians, now solicits their prayers for deliverance. Some argue that his use of the word deliverance meant release from prison, while other Bible students maintain that Paul meant deliverance in terms of eternal salvation. It seems likely that Paul intentionally left some ambiguity here, in light of the eternal focus in the verses that follow. The tension between temporal deliverance and eternal salvation is, in fact, evident throughout this passage. Although Paul seemed to have alluded to his temporal deliverance, clearly his longing for eternal salvation is 'far better'. In this regard, Paul alludes to Job 13:13-18 in this passage where Job clearly speaks of his eternal destiny. Paul wanted the Philippians to know that even if his expected deliverance from prison fails

to materialize, and he is executed, he will still be 'saved' to eternal life by God.

1:20 The crucial thing for Paul is not life or death. It is maintaining his faithful witness to Christ. the phrase 'or by death' indicates that Paul hopes to honor Christ even in the way he eventually dies.

1:21 Paul's life is not a matter of seeking his own comfort or advancement. It is all about seeking the advancement of Christ's kingdom: to live is tantamount to serving Christ. in fact, to die should be seen as gain because it would mean that Paul would be freed from his trouble-filled life on earth to rejoice in Christ's presence.

1:22-26 In light of verse 21, Paul is hard pressed as to which outcome he should desire. Being with Christ now would be more attractive for him, while remaining alive would enable him to help the Philippians further on their own spiritual journey. Since Paul knows that the way of Jesus is the way of service, he is convinced that his own preferences will be put aside so that he can remain and continue with the Philippians for their progress and joy in the faith. Paul is not merely musing on his own crisis; he is giving the Philippians a model of service-driven life.

### **SOURCES CONSULTED**

ESV Study Bible

Serendipity Bible for Personal and Small Group Study

