

>>>>>> *Philippians - Lesson 02* <<<<<<<

- 3) Last time we concluded with Paul telling the Philippians about his circumstance and the way things had all turned out for the best.
- 4) All the things that were seemingly so negative had not hindered the progress of the gospel but had actually aided it.

Philippians 1:15–18a (NASB 2020)

¹⁵ Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from goodwill; ¹⁶ the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; ¹⁷ the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking that they are causing me distress in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice.

- 5) This mention of those who are “preaching Christ even from envy and strife.” is the only negative in this entire passage (12-18).
 - a) One definition of envy is the desire to deprive others of what is rightfully theirs.
 - i) In this case, it was likely Paul’s success with the Gentiles.
 - ii) These men possibly wanted to be “famous” as church planters and preachers of the gospel.
 - iii) Whatever the actual reason behind their preaching, Paul makes it clear that what they are preaching is the “right stuff” just with wrong motives.
 - iv) Envy leads to competition, hostility and conflict – strife!
 - (1) Obviously, none of these are good.
 - b) But even this negative Paul considers as a positive because he says, “Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice.”
- 6) **What an example Paul sets for us in these verses.** To be able to be in this situation and have such focus on Christ and Him preached and at any personal cost is amazing.
 - a) **Plus the JOY he is feeling and expressing!**

- 7) As we proceed to the next passage, he takes his confidence and joy even one step further...

Philippians 1:18b–20 (NASB 2020)

But *not only that*, I also will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ according to my eager expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in

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anything, but *that* with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

- 8) Again, from 18a, “Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice.” BUT not only that but he choses to continue to rejoice.
- 9) Why? Because:
 - a) He will be delivered. How?
 - i) By their prayers.
 - ii) AND By the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.
 - b) AND in all of it, he will not be shamed. Why?
 - i) Because Christ is proclaimed (exalted) in boldness, in Paul’s body, in life or death!
- 10) To use the vernacular, Paul could simply have exclaimed **“It’s all good”!!!!**
- 11) All of this serves as the introduction to what I consider one of the boldest statements one can ever make... Verse 21 reads...

Philippians 1:21–26 (NASB 2020)

To Live Is Christ

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

To die is gain is reasonably easy for us to grasp but, what does the first part of that sentence “to live is Christ” mean to you?

- 12) I never read this statement that I don’t stop and take a moment to consider how **far away** from or how close I am to being able to make the statement for myself.
- 13) One commentary says that it means to “be *consumed* with Christ’s concerns, values, and mission.”
 - a) Sounds a bit strong but perhaps it should be accurate for us and Paul.
- 14) So, to ask the question again perhaps a little differently and perhaps a little more pointedly.

What about us, does Jesus want *us* to be “consumed” by His concerns, values, and mission?

How does this manifest itself in each of us? Same or different?