**A LIFE WORTH LIVING**

**AND A DEATH WORTH DYING**

**Philippians 1:12-30**

**THE BIG IDEA: As we live our lives for Christ advancing the gospel we are assured that in death we will be with Him in paradise.**

**OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY SHOULD BE THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL**

* *“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually advanced the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is because I am in Christ. 14 Most of the brothers have gained confidence in the Lord from my imprisonment and dare even more to speak the word fearlessly. 15 To be sure, some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of good will. 16 These preach out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; 17 the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, thinking that they will cause me trouble in my imprisonment. 18 What does it matter? Only that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice 19 because I know this will lead to my salvation through your prayers and help from the Spirit of Jesus Christ. 20 My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all courage, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death.”* (Philippians 1:12-20)
* **There is no greater purpose in the life of a Christian than to proclaim the gospel (good news) of Jesus and the salvation He offers.**

**A LIFE LIVED *FOR* CHRIST ENDS AT A DEATH BEING EXALTED *WITH* CHRIST**

* *“For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don’t know which one I should choose. 23 I am torn between the two. I long to depart and be with Christ—which is far better— 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. 25 Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that, because of my coming to you again, your boasting in Christ Jesus may abound.”* (Philippians 1:21-26)
* **If you have breath in your lungs God is not finished using you to advance the gospel.**
* *“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. 14 How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.”* (Romans 10:13-15)
* **As Christians, we do not need to fear death because we know we will be with Lord in paradise for eternity!**
* *“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. 17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. 18 So encourage each other with these words.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

**THE GOSPEL SHOULD UNITE US AS PEOPLE AND IN MISSION**

* *“Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel, 28 not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation—and this is from God. 29 For it has been granted to you on Christ’s behalf not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are engaged in the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have.*” (Philippians 1:27-30)
* **Because of what Christ has done for us, we should be passionate about being united with fellow believers in love, service, sacrifice, and mission.**
* *“Make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.”* (Philippians 2:2)
* **Like the Philippian Church, we should strive to be committed to the Lord, to one another, and to the Church and its mission for the sake of the gospel and to bring glory to God.**

**\*\*Connect Group Discussion on Back\*\***

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice Breaker:** Share about one of the happiest moments in your life?

**Understanding:**

* What does Philippians 1:12-30 teach us about God/Jesus?
* What does Philippians 1:12-30 teach us about the gospel?
* What does Philippians 1:12-30 teach us about life and death?
* What does Philippians 1:12-30 teach us about unity?

**Digging Deeper:**

* How does Philippians 1:12 impact your view of suffering and joy?
* How does this study impact your views on purpose and personal ambitions/goals? What place does advancing the gospel have in your life?
* Fill in the blank and explain: “Living is \_\_\_\_\_.”
* How does this study impact your view of death?
* What does it mean to be and live as Kingdom Citizens?
* Why is unity in biblical community (church) so important? How are you doing at seeking and maintain unity with your fellow Christians?
* What is your big takeaway from this study?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

If you are not in a Connect Group and would like to get connected

to grow in your relationship with God and others,

contact the church office at 225-272-3740,

and we can help you find a group that fits your schedule.