

PHILIPPIANS 1:19-30 / MAY 31

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read & Pray

This week's sermon is on Philippians 1:19–30. As a group, read these verses. This passage highlights Paul's confidence in Christ, his perspective on suffering and death, and his call to live worthy of the gospel. After reading, spend a minute praying, then ask, *What stands out to you? What might the Spirit be pressing into your life?* Close by asking God to help you treasure Christ above everything else.

Sermon Recap (to *apply*, not rehash the sermon)

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- The “good life” is ultimately found not in comfort or control, but in Christ himself.
- Paul's confidence was not in escaping suffering, but in Christ being magnified through his life or death.
- When Christ becomes our life, death loses its power and becomes gain.
- Followers of Jesus are called to see life as mission and suffering as worthwhile for the sake of the gospel.
- God often delivers us not by removing hardship immediately, but by sustaining us through it.

Group Discussion

1. Paul says, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (1:21). What do you think most people around you would put in those blanks instead of “Christ” and “gain”? What are you personally tempted to put there?
2. The sermon emphasized that deliverance is not always God removing hardship, but sometimes God making us free in the middle of hardship. Where have you experienced God sustaining you, even before changing your circumstances?
3. Paul viewed his life as “fruitful labor” and a gospel assignment (1:22). How would your daily life look different if you truly believed God has placed you where you are on purpose and for a purpose?
4. Believers have been granted not only the privilege of believing in Christ, but also suffering for him (1:29). Why is suffering difficult to view as part of the normal Christian experience? How can suffering deepen our faith and witness?
5. The sermon repeatedly challenged us with the idea that “you are not ready to live until you are ready to die.” How does the hope of eternity with Christ change the way we face fear, loss, uncertainty, or opposition now?

WEEKLY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Paul says, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).

Honestly evaluate your life according to this verse.

What are you most tempted to live for besides Christ?

How is that shaping your fears, priorities, or anxieties?

PRAYER

- Ask God to help you treasure Christ above comfort, success, control, or approval.
- Pray for courage to live on mission wherever God has placed you, trusting that your life has eternal purpose.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your faith so that even suffering, hardship, and uncertainty would magnify Christ in your life.