

PAUL
To live Christ! To Die Gain!
The Resolve to Remain Faithful in Persecution

The book of Philippians was written by Paul from his imprisonment in Rome a decade after birthing the church in Philippi in the fires of persecution. Paul was deeply concerned that escalating persecution against the Philippians would cause them to retreat from advancing the Gospel. The purpose of the book was to encourage the Philippians to regard suffering for Christ an honor and continue to advance the Gospel regardless the opposition or cost(1:27-30). One of the primary ways Paul inspired the Philippians was by sharing four resolutions He made in his own life to remain faithful to Christ in suffering.

Chapter 1: TO _____ for Christ in all _____

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. **Philippians 1: 21**

Now I want you to know brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the praetorian guard and to everyone else. **Philippians 1: 12-13**

...according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. **Phil. 1: 20**

Chapter 2: TO _____ like Christ in all _____

Have this attitude (mind) in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...
Philippians 2: 5

- Love is thinking about others with the _____ of Christ (Philippians 2: 3).
- Love is looking at others with the _____ of Christ (Philippians 2: 4).
- Love is embracing others with the _____ of Christ (Philippians 2: 5-7).
- Love is pursuing others with the _____ of Christ (Philippians 2: 8).

Chapter 3: TO _____ to Christ in all _____

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3: 14

“If you're approaching Him not as the goal but as a road, not as the end but as a means, you're not really approaching Him at all.” C.S. Lewis

Jesus said the first step in all spiritual decline is when you have “_____” (Revelation 2: 1-7).

Chapter 4: TO _____ on Christ in all _____

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Philippians 4: 13

...I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. Philippians 4: 11b-12 compare with 2 Corinthians 11: 23-33

Lessons Learned From Paul

1. Do not focus on _____ circumstances, but _____ Christ by advancing the Gospel. _____ & _____ the Gospel of Christ must always remain at the center of our lives & ministries.

2. Faith never demands God accomplish a particular _____, but gives God the _____ to arrange the circumstances of my life and ministry in the way He deems best to display His glory. (Phil. 1: 20-21)

3. Receive people as _____ from God to teach you deeper depths of Christ's _____ and how to reach people with the Gospel.

4. Maintaining Christ as my first love is my first priority in life and ministry. In my relationship with Christ there is to be no _____, no _____, no _____. Jesus is _____ in your life but is He _____?

5. Challenges are intended not only to draw me near Christ to find contentment in Him (2 Corinthians 12: 8-10), but also to provide a platform to demonstrate to others that _____ (2 Corinthians 4: 7-12).

