

**Sunday Sermon At Riverside**  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5  
**Philippians 1:19-26 - "The Perspective of Paul"**

**INTRODUCTION**

For those who don't know me I am Cole, I am Pastor Brent's son, and I am the Youth & Young Adults Pastor here.

I know what you're all thinking... "Where's Pastor Brent?"

I was asked to preach this morning so that my parents, Brent and Michelle, could travel up to Salmon Arm and meet with a group up there interested in becoming a Calvary Chapel church.

So that's really exciting, keep them in your prayers and I'm sure next week he will give an update on the whole situation up there.

Now we've been going through the book of Matthew on Sundays but I was given clear direction that I am not covering the next passage in that study.

Instead I wanted to share a bit from our current Youth Series through the book of Philippians.

**PHILIPPIANS BACKGROUND**

We started studying through Philippians at the beginning of this school year, and it has been fantastic so far.

A bit of background... The Apostle Paul wrote Philippians as a letter of encouragement to the church in Philippi.

Paul planted this church on his second missionary journey after being led by the Holy Spirit there.  
(the account is recorded in Acts 16)

One of the main themes of the book of Philippians is Joy. Specifically, joy despite of circumstances, or unending Joy. (That's why our series is titled "Non Stop Joy")

You all know the difference between Joy and Happiness right?

You know that Happiness is an outward expression, but Joy is an inward attitude that leads to external expression. I know you know you're all smart.

Paul wants to share in the Joy that he has, the Joy of the Lord, and one way he demonstrates that his joy is not dependant on his circumstances is that Paul is writing from prison in Rome.

Either that's dedication to the role he's playing, or that's evidence that Paul's Joy is real!

Paul offers so much insight in this epistle that have impacted so many believers throughout the church's history, and in the passage we'll look at today I think he offers a perspective that is crucial for every Christian to have.

**READ Philippians 1:19-26**

**19** For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, **20** according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed,

but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. **22** But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. **23** For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. **24** Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. **25** And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, **26** that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again."

## MESSAGE

Isn't this an amazing passage? Paul uses such wonderful words to share his own perspective with the Christians in Philippi. The perspective that he offers here is one that the Philippians and all Christians everywhere should have, including us. It's a way to look at our existence in the universe as Christians and what we should be led to do as a natural result of having this outlook.

We're going to go through this passage and look at [5 Outcomes of Paul's Perspective](#). These are outcomes that you can see happen in the lives of those who personally adopt this perspective.

[5 Outcomes of Paul's Perspective:](#)

1. [Confident Faith - Philippians 1:19](#)
2. [Christ is Magnified - Philippians 1:20](#)
3. [Life is Lived for Christ - Philippians 1:21a](#)
4. [Death is Not Feared - Philippians 1:21b](#)
5. [A Life Lived for Christ Benefits Others - Philippians 1:24](#)

### **1. Confident Faith - Philippians 1:19**

First thing Paul says in our passage is "I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,"

Based on the phrasing of his words you can see how confident Paul is that his current situation will work out.

Remember, Paul is writing these words from prison, he is under arrest and awaiting trial in Rome.

This is important context to remember as you read and study through Philippians because Paul writes with an attitude that doesn't seem common from a prisoner. He expresses this special kind of Joy despite his chains because he is filled with the Holy Spirit

It's also worth noting that Paul reveals his confident faith in those words "will turn out for my deliverance." Through the prayers of the Philippian Christians and the supply of Jesus Christ's own spirit, he expects that he will be released to carry on his ministry of the Gospel, and according to Christian tradition he did.

It is a widely held view in the church that Paul's imprisonment in Rome started in the year 60 AD, where he awaited for his trial before Caesar that would take place in 62 AD. Two years he waited under house arrest in Rome ([Acts 28:30-31](#)). A number of Christian historians believe that Paul didn't die until 64 AD leaving two years unaccounted for in Scripture between Paul's trial and his execution. Because of this many believe that he was released from prison at his trial before Caesar and went to preach the Gospel in the West (Spain) until he was arrested again, brought back to Rome and beheaded for his faith.

If this really did happen Paul's faith here wasn't just your everyday optimism, or a positive attitude, it was true and sure, bold and confident.

We would be a lot better off in our life if we can get to the place that Paul is at here in his faith. Where we know that we don't have to stress over the stressing things going on because we are confident that God is in control, and He is piecing it all together. That's confident faith.

## 2. Christ is Magnified - Philippians 1:20

Here is when we truly see Paul explaining the attitude he had about his situation. Even if his upcoming trial brings the opposite outcome in which he's hoping for it's all good! Even if he was going to be executed then and there, he is okay with that! The biggest priority for Paul is that "Christ will be magnified in [his] body, whether by life or by death." (verse 20)

Paul's attitude is "no matter what happens, I only want Christ to be magnified."

These are the words of someone who has their priorities correct.

These are the words of a person who understands what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Paul wants Jesus to take the lead, he wanted Him to be centerstage while he plays the background working to better magnify Christ.

In Life, Paul wants to magnify Christ. In death, Paul still wants to magnify Christ.

How can you magnify Christ in your death?

I was thinking about this question myself and the word that kept coming to mind was "Legacy."

A way that I would define that word Legacy is:

Legacy: What you leave behind once your end has come.

It's whatever from your life remains that will effect other people.

Christians have the opportunity to glorify Christ with our legacy, but the way that this is done is by living for Him boldly .

Paul was sure that Christ would be magnified in his death because of the huge impact he had on so many through his ministry, he was led of the Holy Spirit and was used by God greatly.

Paul is only vessel, yes, but because of the way he lived for Christ that's what he left behind.

What are we leaving behind?

## 3. Life is Lived for Christ - Philippians 1:21a

Paul beautifully breaks down this relationship between life and death for the christian in the next verse (vs 21).

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

Paul is boldly saying "As far as I'm concerned, to live for Jesus is a great thing (best way to live), but to die and be with Jesus is better." Paul didn't fear death because he was confident God would use his death to further His kingdom, just as He used his life to do.

The first part of that verse says "**To live is Christ**," Do we even understand what that means? For those who claim to be Christian, you have devoted your life to Christ. You have put your faith in the saving work He did on the cross to pay off our debt of sin (that's the gospel), and you have put to death your old self to receive life in Him.

One of the greatest verses in the bible that explains this:

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

- Galatians 2:20

There is no other option for the Christian when it comes to who we live our lives for, it's Jesus.

If we are living for ourselves, that's vanity, it's empty, it won't last, but when we live for Jesus and we make it our goal to make Him known through our lives, that's eternal! That's going to last.

When it comes to the things that matter to us, Jesus should be at the very top of our list.

#### **4. Death is Not Feared** - **Philippians 1:21b**

The second part of verse 21 says "**To die is gain**." This is our hope and glory.

To be with Jesus,  
glorified,  
in His presence,  
meeting Him,  
seeing Him,  
face to face,  
what a day that is going to be.

All our troubles in this life, everything we thought was important in this world will not even compare with that moment.

I just wanted to read these verses:

"We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."

- 2 Corinthians 5:8

Once this moment takes place, our eternal life begins in which we will always be in the presence of Jesus our Saviour and Lord.

To live our lives with this mindset on death, where we don't fear it, is such a privilege.

For the Christian, Death is not a negative thing, it is a reunion with our creator not because we did anything to earn it, but because of the work of salvation He accomplished in order to save us.

### 5. A Life Lived for Christ Benefits Others - Philippians 1:24

Paul has a bit of a dilemma on his hand.

His dilemma was that he saw the advantage of both the life and death of a Christian.

To live meant more opportunity to share Jesus with others,

to die meant eternally being with Christ our Saviour.

Even saying in **verse 23** that he is "**hard-pressed between the two.**"

Paul knew that departing from this life to "**be with Christ... is far better,**" (**vs 23**) but he knows it would be to so many other people's benefit for him to remain and continue being a minister of Christ in his life.

He has the Philippian church in mind as well saying in **verse 24** "**to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.**"

We have the opportunity in this life to minister to others. To serve each other. What a gift and blessing that is for every party involved.

When we live for Christ, naturally we are going to want to bless and serve others.

That is what ministering is all about, serving the Lord firstly, and often that takes shape in helping to meet the needs others.

That's a big aspect of Church! We come together as the body of Christ to worship God, fellowship with one another, equip ourselves through the word of God, encourage and exhort each other, and minister another.

You can minister in big ways or small ways, but if you are living for Christ, you best be ministering.

I'll tell you, the bane of my existence as a staff member here at Riverside is how wet the counter in the mens bathroom gets. Ladies I don't know if you have this problem too, but I'm taking the great lake of the men's bathroom counter gets formed.

And I get it, you wet your hands in the sink and have to drip across the counter to get the soap, and then you drip across the counter again to get the paper towel, and you drip some more as you dry your hands, it is what it is.

This is just a small pet peeve of mine, and I feel I've earned the right to a small little rant about it.

My point with the men's counter situation is I feel many people, when an opportunity to serve presents itself, think "somebody else will get that." "I'm not serving this week." "It's not my responsibility."

Stop saying "someone else will serve in that way," and start asking "Lord, lead be to areas I can serve today."

We need to remember that this is the character of our Saviour.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

- Mark 10:45

When we live for Jesus and bear witness of His character through our lives you bet that will benefit the people around us.

Paul knew this and exemplified it well in his life. He was ready for any opportunity to serve.

Whether it was in life or in death, Paul was ready to be used by God in whatever thing God had in store.

## CONCLUSION

Paul's perspective here is so important for us to identify with. In fact, I would even argue that this is the key to this unending, unwavering, non-stop Joy.

Paul was filled with the Joy of the Lord.

Despite everything he's been through for Jesus (which is a lot - Paul's Resume of Suffering: 2 Corinthians 11:23-28), he knows that it is little when compared to the glory of Jesus.

It's not really a tough decision for us. It would be for our own benefit to adopt the perspective that Paul displays in this passage and live out our days in the Joy of the Lord.

If we want to give God glory in our lives, to actually "Live for Christ" then we need to dedicate everything we do to Him, that He may get the glory. We owe him that.

If we make it our priority to do this, to actually live for Him, I'll say this,  
**right actions are determined by right thinking.**

We can't expect to live boldly for Jesus if we aren't filling our minds with things that are worthy of Him.

- Let's get in the word of God so that we can feed ourselves that spiritual food necessary for growth.

- Let's rid ourselves of the filth of the world to make more space for the Holy Spirit in our minds.

- Let's fulfill Paul's exhortation at the end of this book in [Philippians 4:8](#) when he says  
"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

- [Philippians 4:8](#)

- Let's actually live our lives for Jesus if we truly claim to follow Him, that He can be magnified in our lives.