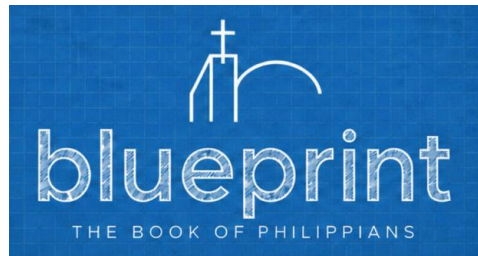




GOING DEEPER

Discussion Questions and more from Sunday's message, before we begin, here are the verses for this week's study! Open your bible to the book of Philippians 1:19-26; 1 Corinthians 11:27-32 (the Lord's Supper).

How much time have you spent this past week reflecting on Jesus and the hope of the gospel? How has reflecting on Him been of help to you? Because that is how we grow in how we think about our relationship to God and how we bring Him Glory each day, in each conversation, interaction, our work, our family. **In everything.** The gospel and the love of Christ should indwell us, and we should be burdened to share that good news with others in these last days. ***Have you shared the good news with anyone this week? Have you showed the love of Jesus to anyone this week?***



Living for Christ, Dying is Gain

A believer considers eternity to determine what matters in life today.

"The apostle Paul repeatedly teaches us by his life that man helps create his environment: mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual.....by the attitude he develops." John C. Maxwell

When you think about the phrase, 'to live is Christ,' what is one area of everyday life where that feels easy—or difficult—to apply?

1. Make your present about matters of Christ

Philippians 1:19–22 “Yes, and I will rejoice, **19** for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, **20** as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. **22** If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.”

In verse 19, Paul says he knows his situation will turn out for his “deliverance” through prayer and the help of the Spirit. What does this teach us about our dependence on God and on the prayers of other believers?

Paul was in prison, yet he says, “I will rejoice.” What helps a believer rejoice when circumstances are uncertain or difficult?

Verse 20 says Paul’s eager hope was that he would not be ashamed, but that Christ would be honored in his body. What does it look like for Christ to be honored through our everyday choices, words, and attitudes?

How does remembering eternity help us determine what really matters in life today?

“The goal of life is to exalt, proclaim and live out Christ before the world.” Henry Blackaby

Discovery... The question isn’t “Am I ready to die?” It is: “**If God leaves me here, what am I living for?**”

The great “Declaration of CO-Dependence”

Vs 20 “as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.”

CO-Dependent people, Billy asked for a show of hands???

Independence is actually CO-Dependent

Every aspect of our life broadcast something...

“Christ will be honored in my body” ...A sexual/marital Passage/concept... **WRONG**
This is the clearly read body language of our personhood

Culture: “My body, my choice.” ... this is a fundamental separation with Christ.

Paul: “My body, His glory.”

Christ isn’t part of Paul’s life. Christ defines it.

Vs 21 "For to me to **live is Christ**, and to die is gain." Paul removes the middle ground.

Paul says, "to live is Christ." If someone looked at your priorities this week, what might they say your life is centered on?

What are some common things people are tempted to live for instead of Christ?

A life with a WHY can endure almost any WHAT.

Prison was Paul's **what**.

Possible execution was Paul's **what**.

Opposition was Paul's **what**.

But Christ was his **why**.

"We have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end." -Hebrews 3:14

2. Make your future about longing for Christ

Philippians 1:23–26 "I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. 24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again."

Why does Paul say departing to be with Christ is "far better"? What does that teach us about the Christian view of heaven?

How does Paul's confidence in being with Christ change the way he views death?

Paul does not seem afraid of dying, but he also sees purpose in remaining alive. How should Christians hold both of those truths together?

What is the difference between simply living longer and living with gospel purpose?

Paul's future hope made him more useful in the present. How should longing for Christ make us more faithful here and now?

What are some things people tend to cling to in this life that can make it harder to long for Christ?

How would your priorities change if you truly believed that being with Christ is "far better"?

Billy discussed The Overview Effect... we have to step away from things before we can truly see them for what they are. He showed the 1st picture taken of earth from the Moon.

We should long for Christ more than we cling to life.

Vs 23 "... My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better."

"Heaven is not ultimately better because of what is there. Heaven is better because of Who is there." - John MacArthur

Paul doesn't romanticize death.

The word "depart" carries the idea of leaving

Paul sees death not primarily as an ending but as going to Christ.

Paul can call death "gain" only because there was first another death... **Christ's.**

Because Christ died and rose again, the believer can live today with fruitful purpose and face tomorrow with fearless hope. Paul reminds us that life is not about preserving ourselves, promoting ourselves, or pleasing ourselves—it is about Christ being honored in us, whether by life or by death.

If "to live is Christ" is true of you, what needs to change this week so that your present priorities and future hopes are centered more fully on Him?

The Lord's Supper also looks in two directions:

Backward to Christ's death

Forward to His return / **1 Corinthians. 11/**"you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" Paul said, **"To live is Christ, and to die is gain."**

Neither half of that sentence is possible without the cross.

I can live for Christ because He died for me.

I can face death without fear because He rose again.

Lord's Supper

Prequel

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

Remember the Body

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

The bread points us backward....

Remember the Blood

1 Corinthians 11:25

The cup points us forward...

Proclaim His Gospel

1 Corinthians 11:26

LIVE IT OUT

Bible Study should ALWAYS lead to taking action with what you learned. Think of it as Vitamin A. "Application" into your day, week and interactions.

In Your Family

Honor Christ in your tone — choose patience, gentleness, and forgiveness in conversations at home.

Pray with or for your family — ask how you can specifically pray for them this week. If you are too busy to pray, you are indeed too busy!

Be present, not just nearby — put away distractions and intentionally encourage your spouse, children, parents, or siblings.

Model eternal perspective — talk about what really matters, not just schedules, grades, money, or activities.

In Your Workplace

Work as fruitful labor for Christ — do your job with integrity, excellence, and humility.

Let Christ be seen in your attitude — especially under pressure, criticism, delays, or difficult people.

Encourage someone — look for a coworker who may be carrying a burden and speak life to them.

Refuse to make work your identity — remember that your job is something you do, but Christ is who defines you. You are an Ambassador for Christ in your workplace!

In Our Church

Help someone make "progress and joy in the faith" — encourage, disciple, pray with, or check on another believer.

Serve without needing attention — look for one simple way to bless the body of Christ quietly.

Come prepared to worship — reflect on Christ **before** Sunday, not just when you arrive.

Build unity — speak words that strengthen the church rather than criticize or divide.

In Our Community

Live as a gospel witness — let your kindness, honesty, and compassion point others to Christ.

Share the hope of Christ — ask God for one opportunity to speak about Jesus this week.

See people as eternal souls — neighbors, servers, cashiers, classmates, and strangers are not interruptions; they are opportunities for you to be Jesus with “flesh” on to them.

Practice visible love — meet a need, write a note, make a call, invite someone, or give generously.

This week, be intentional with your 168 hours and choose one person in each area — family, workplace, church, and community — and ask: “How can my life help them see Christ more clearly?”

Remember:

“We are to run the race with endurance, not in our own strength, but by fixing our gaze on Jesus. He is not only the goal of our faith—He is the source and sustainer of it.” R.C. Sproul

“The gospel is not only about changing WHERE you will live for eternity, it’s also about changing HOW you will live today.” Shane Pruitt
And that is a heart change. So that we glorify God in all we do.

Having Jesus as Savior will cost you nothing. Having Jesus as Savior will cost you everything. How so?

Who do you say God is? You cannot “come after” Jesus unless you come to Him.

Two roads stand before us in this world today. There is the way of the divine things of our Lord, which is the way of Christ. And there is the way of human things of the world. There is a way to save your life, and you will lose it there. And there is a way to lose your life for the sake of the Kingdom, and there you will find it.

How do we follow Jesus’ ways? First of all, we turn from our sin and entrust our lives to Him as our Savior and Lord. Then, we seek His will in His Word each day and put it into practice by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We learn to deny our selfish desires and give ourselves completely to following Jesus.

This choice we have — to seek first the kingdom of God — is the fundamental choice everyone makes when they first repent and turn to Jesus Christ. Yet every day after that, our Christian life will either reinforce that decision or deny it.

Remember the gospel is personal. Your changed life shows that to others around you based on what happened at the cross. You are at a crossroads if you have not accepted Christ. Which road are you traveling on right now? Are you on God's side?



Are you in a Growth Group at First Baptist? In this isolated world, Growth Groups help people connect in a healthy way. God has created us for a deep longing for community. We grow when we are living out our faith in a small group with others and we do this by loving, caring for, and encouraging each other. If you have any questions about our Growth Groups, contact the Church Office for more information.