

“Living with Confidence in Uncertainty”

Philippians 1:19-30

1. Paul was confident not because he knew his immediate _____, but because he viewed his _____ through the lens of the _____ of Jesus.
(Philippians 1:19-20, 2:10-11)

2. When the goal of our lives is the _____ of _____, then life and death are _____.
(Philippians 1:21-24)

3. Paul evaluated possible outcomes by the _____ for the spiritual _____ of each. (Philippians 1:25-26)

4. The gospel itself should be _____ to live _____.
(Philippians 1:27-28)

5. There will always be _____ to _____ Jesus when we’re living with _____.
(Matthew 16:24, 5:10-12, Romans 8:18)

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Philippians 1:19-30

1. Paul was confident not because he knew his immediate future, but because he viewed his entire life through the lens of the Kingship of Jesus. (Philippians 1:19-20, 2:10-11)

2. When the goal of our lives is the glory of God, then life and death are equally rewarding. (Philippians 1:21-24)

3. Paul evaluated possible outcomes by the potential for the spiritual fruitfulness of each. (Philippians 1:25-26)

4. The gospel itself should be sufficient motivation to live for Christ. (Philippians 1:27-28)

5. There will always be costs to following Jesus when we're living with purpose. (Matthew 16:24, 5:10-12, Romans 8:18)

Questions for Discussion

1. Paul had no certainty about whether he would live or die, yet he expressed tremendous confidence. What do you think was the foundation of his confidence, and how is that different from the way we often try to find security?
2. Paul said, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” What does it practically look like for a person to make Christ the central purpose of his or her life? What tends to compete with that purpose?
3. Paul evaluated the possibilities before him according to their potential for spiritual fruitfulness rather than personal comfort or preference. How might our decisions change if we consistently evaluated them by their potential to produce spiritual fruit?
4. Paul’s circumstances were uncertain, but his commitment to honor Christ was not. What are some circumstances in your life where you need to distinguish between what you cannot control and what you can faithfully choose?
5. Paul challenged the Philippians to “live a life worthy of the gospel” whether he was present or absent. What would a life worthy of the gospel look like in the ordinary circumstances of our lives—at home, at work, in relationships, and in our community?
6. Paul connected Christian faithfulness with standing firm together and not being frightened by opposition. What kinds of fears or pressures can cause Christians to shrink back, and what helps us remain courageous and united?
7. The message emphasized that following Christ will involve a cost, but also suggested that refusing to follow Christ carries an even greater cost. Which of those two realities do you think Christians tend to underestimate, and how should that affect the way we live?