

## **Lesson 2**

### **Joy in Suffering**

### **Philippians 1:19-30**

When we read about the Apostle Paul's life, we see a man who was wholeheartedly for Jesus; whose life was spent in service to God. Paul suffered many afflictions and persecutions because of his faith but that never deterred him from spreading the gospel and discipling the saints wherever he went. He was an example of what it meant to live for Christ, no matter what the cost. As we study this next section of scripture, we can learn much from the Apostle Paul about suffering for the sake of the gospel. The possibility of doing so is becoming more and more likely in our society today and we need to be prepared to respond in a way that will glorify God.

#### **Read Philippians 1:19-30.**

1. As you look at verses 19-21, Paul mentions several confidences. Write out as many as you see.
  - a. When you find yourself in difficult circumstances, how can Romans 8:28 help you to have the same confidence as Paul had?

2. Paul was in prison and yet he had an upbeat attitude and encouraging words to say about his plight. As Christians, we have a special enabling that helps us to stand up to the difficulties we face in life. How do the following verses describe this special enabling?

1 Corinthians 10:13

2 Corinthians 12:9—

Ephesians 4:14, 16—

2 Peter 1:4

3. Read verse 21 and Galatians 2:20. Write out in your own words what you believe Paul is saying in these two verses. What kind of life is he describing?
  - a. Do you think every Christian should have this same mindset? Is every Christian capable of living with the same dedication as did Paul? Why or why not?

PERSONAL: Regarding Philippians 1:21, is this statement true for you? What does “to live for Christ” mean to you in a practical sense? In what ways are you living for Christ? If you find that you aren’t living for Christ in any tangible way, what are some ways you can change that? How can you use the days God has given you to love and serve others?

4. If Paul lives, what does that mean to him and the Philippian church? (vs. 22-26)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What do Paul’s words in verse 23 reveal about what happens at death?
  - a. How does 2 Corinthians 5:8 express this same truth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. As you contemplate this truth, how does it make you feel about death?

6. Paul exhorts in Verse 27 to live *worthy of the gospel*? What do you think this means?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What are the things Paul is desiring to hear about the Philippians affairs, about their conduct? (Verse 27)
  - a.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c.

PERSONAL: Paul, in essence, exhorted the Philippian believers to contend for the faith. Christians are to work together for the sake of the gospel. What does this require of you?

8. In Paul's time, Christians were facing execution for their faith, yet Paul tells the Philippians not to be terrified by those opposing the gospel. Not being intimidated would be a sign of what:

- a. to your adversaries?
  - b. to you?
9. Read Philippians 1:29. What two things have been *granted* to us on behalf of Christ.
10. What do the following verses reveal about what our attitude should be toward suffering for Christ?

Matthews 5:10-12

Luke 6:22-23

1 Peter 3:14

1 Peter 4:12-14

- b. Do you think all Christians are called upon to suffer for Christ's sake? Why or why not?

- c. In your estimation, are you spiritually prepared to be called on to suffer for His sake?

Share one thing from this lesson that has ministered to you and how you will apply this lesson to your life.







