

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS
Chapter 1 - LIVE THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

REVIEW: LIVE THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST
BY FELLOWSHIPPING IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST (1: 1-11)

1. True Christian fellowship is believers becoming partners to propagate the gospel (vs. 1-5). How do we propagate the gospel?
 - Visually (living the gospel) > Verbally (sharing the gospel) > Virally (spreading the gospel)
2. True Christian fellowship is believers partaking in God's grace to persevere in the gospel (vs. 6-7). How do we persevere in the gospel?
 - Remaining faithful to the gospel when persecuted & speaking up for the gospel when challenged.
3. True Christian fellowship is believers putting at the center of their prayers the priorities of the gospel (8-11). How should we pray?
 - to grow in love > to discern what is best > to walk in integrity > to produce fruit > to live for God's glory

LIVE THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST
BY ADVANCING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST (1: 12-26)

1. Paul's circumstances resulted in the PROGRESS of the gospel (vs. 12-14).

Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel (v. 12).

 - Paul's imprisonment gave CONTACT with the lost.

...my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else (v. 13).
 - Paul's imprisonment gave COURAGE to the saved.

...most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear (v. 14).
2. Paul's critics were motivated to PROCLAIM the gospel (vs. 15-18).

Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will (v. 15);

 - Some preached Christ out of LOVE for Paul.

...the latter do it out of love knowing I am appointed for the defense of the gospel (v. 16);

- Some preached Christ to bring DISTRESS to Paul.
...the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment (v. 17).
- Conclusion:
What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice (v. 18).

3. Paul's confidence was His imprisonment was a God given opportunity to exalt the PRIZE of the gospel (vs. 19-21).

- Source of Paul's confidence (v. 19)
 - The PRECEPTS of God
 - The PRAYERS of the saints
 - The PROVISION of the Spirit
- Goal of Paul's confidence (v. 20)
 - Never DISGRACE Christ
...according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything...(v. 20a)
 - Always EXALT Christ
...but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death... (v. 20b)

Note: God uses a believer's adversity as both a MICROSCOPE & TELESCOPE to magnify the greatness of Christ to unbelievers who see Him as small, and bring Christ close to unbelievers who see Him only at a distance.

- Outcome of Paul's confidence (v. 21)
 - *to live Christ*
 - *to die gain*

4. Paul's choice was to live for the church to be PERFECTED in the gospel (vs. 22-26).

- Paul's preference for death (vs. 22-23)
- Paul's motive for living (vs. 24-26)

Note: Paul was willing to postpone HEAVEN to grow the church, and willing to go to HELL to win the lost to Christ (Rom. 9: 1-3). A believer's criteria for living should be, "What is best for the church?" and "How can I win the lost to Christ?"

For me to live is _____ and to die is _____.