



Sermon Notes and Study Questions

Live Selflessly

¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted 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 go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Philippians 1:15-26

Notes:

Introduction: Avoiding Buyer's Remorse

The Power of Paul's Testimony

- A True Believer
- Costly Commitment
- Seeing Paul through the Eyes of the Philippians

Paul Lived Selfless because He felt Secure

- The feeling of security can only come if we put ourselves in a place of vulnerability and trust with Jesus.
- Some of the feeling of security comes through sharing our lives in a church family.

Paul Lived Selfless because Jesus accepted Jesus' definition of Success

- When Paul shared that he has confidence that he will not be ashamed, he was communicating in their language of success and failure.
- Christian Success is Obedience to Christ

Paul Lived Selfless because He had Hope in the Resurrection

- Resurrection Hope
- In Calls for Action—we need to move through theory to reality

Conclusion

Connecting Questions

1. Share about a time when you experienced buyer's remorse.
2. Share about a time when you ended up finding an excellent deal.
3. Who has been an example of someone in your own life who demonstrates selflessness to Christ and others? Share a little about this person.

Discussion Questions:

1. When you think about the Apostle Paul's story, what things demonstrate his conviction and passion for putting Christ first in this life?
2. What is your reaction to Paul's excitement of getting to suffer for Jesus? Why do you think Paul feels this way?
3. What is the relationship between living selflessly for Christ and feeling that your life is secure in Jesus Christ?
4. Trusting Jesus to deliver us into eternal life was compared to getting into a wheelbarrow. When it comes to trusting Jesus to direct your living, sleeping, eating, working, family, friends, and activities—where do you see yourself in comparison to the wheelbarrow(looking at it and thinking about getting in (right in the middle of it with a big smile, leaning towards the middle, just getting in, or trying to find a way out)? Why did you chose your description?
5. How have you experienced the choice of being involved in a church family as helping provide feelings of security as well as encouraging living more selflessly?
6. Can someone be too selfless? Why or why not?
7. Paul's example and testimony leads us to ask: Whose honor am I actively pursuing? What is my measure of success? What does it mean to be a success in the eyes of Jesus? Is my life headed in that direction? Share about your answers to these questions.

8. A non-Christian comes to you and wants to know, “How can somebody say, ‘to live is Christ and to die is gain?’ What does this mean?” How would you explain this to them?
9. What actions and decisions do you feel called to make in light of this message on Philipians 1?
10. How can living selfless actually lead to experiencing life at its best?

Going Deeper into Scripture

Read Acts 16:11-40

11. What stands out to you about Paul’s witness in Philippi?
12. How do you think you would have responded if you had been beaten and imprisoned?
13. What do you believe were the concrete beliefs and convictions that helped Paul respond the way he did?
14. What impression do you think Paul made on the Church he left behind?
Why these impressions?