

WHAT DRIVES YOU?
Philippians 1:19-26
4/7/13

Among the ancient ruins of Carthage there is an inscription carved by a Roman soldier:

“To laugh, to hunt, to bathe, to game - that is life”

How would you fill in the blanks on the following statements?

“For me . . .

happiness is _____.”

real satisfaction would be to _____.”

my goal in life is _____.”

to really live is _____.”

How would you complete this sentence?

“My thoughts and time tend to center on . . .”

my job	my family	my friends	myself	sports	recreation
hobbies	having fun	school	television	movies	the internet
video games	music	nice things	making \$		

We can see what really drives us by:

What we talk about most, and by

How we spend our time and money.

In our passage this morning Paul leaves no doubt as to his driving passion.

1. Paul’s Driving Passion Was To Exalt Christ. 1:19-20

- a. Paul is confident that the Philippians’ prayers and the Spirit of Christ (Holy Spirit) will bring about his deliverance. v. 19**

But deliverance from what?

Paul isn’t talking about deliverance from eternal judgment.

It is unlikely that Paul is strictly talking about deliverance from prison or death

Although Paul recognizes the possibility the possibility that he might be released, he also recognizes the possibility that he might be executed. vv. 20-22

- b. Paul is confident that their prayers and the Holy Spirit will deliver him from the shame of failing Christ. vv. 19-20a**

- Paul was confident in the power of prayer

Ephesians 6:19-20 and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Colossians 4:3-4 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; 4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

- Paul was confident in the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 13:11 "When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but *it is the Holy Spirit.*"

Paul was confident that their prayers and the Holy Spirit would deliver him from the shame of failing Christ.

- ◆ They gave him confidence that he wouldn't deny Christ when he came before the Roman court.
- ◆ They gave him confidence that he would have the words and courage to speak as he ought to speak.

c. Paul's driving passion was that Christ be exalted. v. 20b

Exalted- megaluno -to magnify, enlarge, make conspicuous.

We aren't to exaggerate and try to make Jesus appear "bigger than life."

We are here to help people see just how big Jesus really is.

Stars are larger than telescopes, yet telescopes magnify stars and reveal them to be larger than viewed by the naked eye.

To the average person Jesus is not very big and important

He is just a misty historical figure who lived a long time ago.

It is our job to live our lives in such a way that Christ is magnified and seen more clearly for who He really is.

Our lives are to be lenses to help people see Christ.

How can we glorify Christ?

By living lives that honor Him before others

- ◇ Honest work
- ◇ Moral relationships
- ◇ *Faithful* marriages

By loving one another cf John 13:35

By loving our neighbors

- ◇ Showing *mercy* to the poor
- ◇ *Kindness* to the elderly
- ◇ *Help* for the widows
- ◇ *Care* for the sick
- ◇ *Friendship* to the foreigners

By introducing others to Him

It didn't matter to Paul whether he lived or died.

What mattered was living in such a way that by life and word he might magnify Christ to others.

Paul hoped to honor Christ even in the way he eventually dies.

2. Paul Didn't Know Whether He Preferred To Live Or Die. 1:21-24

a. To live is Christ

- To live is to live for Christ. v. 21

Paul wasn't seeking his own comfort or advancement.

He was living with Christ. Galatians 2:20

Christ was living for Christ.

- To live produced fruitful labor for Christ. v. 22

- ◆ Fruitful attitude Galatians 5:22-23

- ◆ Fruitful actions (righteous deeds) Philippians 1:11

- ◆ Fruit in bringing forth converts Romans 1:13

To bring souls to Christ and build up believers to do the same

- To live was necessary to build up the people of Christ. v. 24

For many people today, to live is to golf, garden, travel, ski, or accumulate nice things.

For others, to live is to make a name for themselves.

As parents, what values are you communicating to your children?

To live is sports, education, career, making money, or exalting God by serving others

As you counsel your children for the future, which predominates- the material or the spiritual?

For Paul, to live meant the opportunity to promote and exalt Christ.

b. To die is gain

- Paul desired to depart and be with Christ. v. 23

- ◆ That is very much better.

- ◇ Not just because the pains and pressures of this life will be past.

- ◇ Not just because our battle with temptation will be over.

- ◇ Not just because we will receive our heavenly rewards.

- ◇ **But** because our hearts will never be fully content until we are at home with our Savior.

If you are looking to the things of this life for meaning then to die is loss.

To live for _____, is to die and _____

- ◇ money and things to leave it all behind

- ◇ recognition and fame to be forgotten

- ◇ power and influence to lose it all

- ◇ fun and recreation a meaningless life
- ◇ relaxation and leisure eternity without rewards

Life is meaningless when not lived in the light of eternity.

3. Paul Is Confident That He Will Continue To Live. 1:25-26

a. For their progress in the faith v. 25a

- Paul had a real desire to help them grow spiritually.

He recognized that they needed him.

Some needed more humility. 2:1-8

They needed to be guarded against false teachers. 3:2

Some needed to learn how to get along with one another. 4:2-3

Some were filled with fear and anxiety. 4:6-8

Paul wanted to help them spiritually mature in these areas.

b. For their joy in the faith v. 25b

- Paul knows that when he is released they will rejoice and be encouraged that their prayers were answered.

c. For their confidence to abound in Christ v. 26

The Greek word order is “that your confidence of joy may be more abundant in Jesus Christ” because of him.

^{ESV} **Philippians 1:26** so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

4. What Drives You?

Westminster Catechism: What is the chief end of man?

Answer: The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever

I pray that each of us will come to the place where we can say with the apostle Paul that it is our greatest desire that:

“Christ will even now as always be exalted in my body whether by life or by death.

To what extent is your life a lens that helps people to see Christ?

What do you need to do to cleanse the lens?

We see some startling things printed on T-shirts. One said, "Don't take life seriously. It's not permanent."

I know of no better reason to take it seriously.

ARE YOU READY FOR ETERNITY?