



February 22-23, 2026

Sermon Title: Even If My Story Ends Differently

by: Pastor Alan Hannah

Scripture: [Philippians 4:20] - ²⁰ *Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen.*

Big idea: *A life surrendered to God always has a meaningful ending.*

All of us are wired with a desire for stories with great endings... for resolution.

This is exactly what Paul is wrestling with as he writes the final lines of this letter to that church in Philippi.

Except he writes...a doxology. ***“Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen.”***

Paul’s Unknown Ending

He writes this letter not knowing how his story will end... with a ton of uncertainty.

Yet, what has this letter been full of? Contentment. Gratitude. Peace. Joy.

What “Glory” Means

In Paul’s world... glory (Greek “doxa”) was not primarily emotional. It was relational and reputational. Glory meant public recognition of weight, worth, and honor.

When Paul writes, *“all glory to God,”* he’s not just describing a feeling... He’s making a public declaration... Let God’s reputation be what stands. Let His name be what is honored and praised... “Whatever the outcome, God gets the glory.”

He’s choosing to deliberately make his story about something BIGGER than his own ending.

A doxology is not something you write AFTER everything is resolved... NOT a response to a good outcome. It’s a DECLARATION about who God is, regardless of the outcome.

The pattern is clear, and it runs from Genesis through Revelation... God does not waste the hard chapters.

Forever and Ever

“Forever and ever” literally means “unto the end of time” ... an emphatic expression for eternity.

Paul is saying... however your story ends, that’s temporary. The glory of God is eternal.

Paul isn’t being dismissive or minimizing the pain. He’s simply contextualizing it. He’s placing your story inside a story that has no ending.

“¹⁷For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” [2 Corinthians 4:17-18]

Your Doxology

Paul’s answer in every chapter and circumstance pointed to... **Christ. Present. Sufficient. Worthy of glory.**

Life Group Discussion Questions

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WARM-UPS:

1. Review the ten honest confessions of what life looks like when you're trying to follow Jesus in the real world. Which of the "Even If" messages have been most impactful or meaningful to you? Why?
2. What book, movie or TV show have you read or watched that ended well? Briefly share why? On the other hand, share about one that didn't end well?

DISCUSSION:

1. Pastor Alan stated, *"We all have a story we wanted to end well, but it didn't."* Please share an example that came to mind when he shared examples.
2. Paul's letter to the Philippians was full of contentment, gratitude, peace and joy. If you wrote a life letter to share with family and friends, what key words would you include so that "Whatever the outcome, God gets the glory"?
3. Pastor Alan said, *"Paul uses doxologies a lot..."*. Review the following that he mentioned. What were the circumstances or what preceded these doxologies in Paul's other letters? What other scriptural doxologies or songs come to mind? How can we use doxologies to strengthen one another?
 - *"For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen."* [Romans 11:36]
 - *"All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen."* [Romans 16:27]
 - *"Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen."* [Ephesians 3:21]
4. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or inspiring in the sermon today, and what will you do differently as a result? What did the Holy Spirit impress upon you?

IN THE WORD: Read these doxologies in relation to this week's sermon "Even If My Story Ends Differently".

- **Psalm 41:13:** "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen".
- **Psalm 72:18–19:** "Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory!".
- **Psalm 150:** Often considered a final, overarching doxology for the entire Psalter.
- **1 Chronicles 29:10-13: David's prayer:** "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory..."
- **Ephesians 3:20-21:** "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."

PRACTICE:

1. Doxologies, giving glory (praise) to God has always been central to the life of believers. What rhythms do you have in your life to pause and praise God, and how does it shape your heart?
2. What is the chapter of your story that feels unfinished? What is the ending that you haven't seen yet? Can you write a doxology over that?