

Paul doesn't allow his pride or how people see him to dictate his actions or attitudes. What is of greater importance to Paul.

Sometimes we can be critical of other churches or denominations because they don't do things our way, or we see them putting us down. How can we learn from Paul?

Decide on something you can do to apply these lessons this week?

Conclude by spending some time in prayer for ourselves and other Christians that Jesus maybe preached.

Lent 2021 - Reflections on Christian Priorities

**Study 1: The Name of Jesus proclaimed - Rejoice.
(Sermon - 14 February 2021)**

Philippians 1:1 - 18

Lent is a time of reflection and repentance leading to the remembrance of the events of Easter. It is time when people reflect on their lives, but above all on the grace given to us by the Father through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus.

Over the next seven weeks I encourage you to reflect on the themes of Paul's Letter to the church in Philippi and how these inform us about the priorities of the Christian Life. Each week there is a key verse, which summarizes our theme. You may want to use these as memory verses, either all or some, to help in reminding you of the lessons learnt.

This week, just prior to the beginning of Lent we reflect on the name of Jesus and the need the world has to hear that Name. So, we are challenged to rejoice along with Paul when Jesus is proclaimed and to join in the partnership of the Gospel.

Phil. 1:18 'The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.'

How important is it to you that Jesus is proclaimed? How does your life reflect this sense of importance?

Now read Philippians 1:1 – 18.

Paul often starts his letters with prayers of thanksgiving.

What does Paul thank God for? How does Paul describe his relationship with the Philippians?

What partnership or fellowship do they have with Paul?

Do we also take a role in this partnership? How can we do this?

How does this reflect the faith and love of the Philippians?
How does show our faith?

How is this an aspect of God's continuing work that Paul talks about in v6?

Where do you see God continuing his 'good work' in your life or in our Christian community?

Paul's prayer in v9ff asks that the Philippians love may increase. How does discernment and being filled with the fruit of righteousness help proclaim Jesus?

In v12 Paul talks of an event that many of us would have seen as catastrophic. How does Paul see it?

Do we see setbacks we may face from time to time as opportunities for Jesus to be proclaimed?

Not everybody goes about proclaiming Jesus for the right reasons, why doesn't this bother Paul?