

Lent 2021 - Reflections on Christian Priorities

**Study 2: A life worth living/ A death worth more.
(Sermon - 21 February 2021)**

Philippians 1:19 - 30

What does Paul highlight that may stop us living this life? Can you think of things today that might dissuade you?

How does the way we live our lives reflect the salvation we have in Jesus (28)? How is this a witness to the world?

What does it mean, vv.29-30, to be granted the opportunity to suffer for the sake of Christ? How is it for his sake? Have we been granted this same opportunity?

Should life be a struggle for Christians? Should we be concerned if life as a Christian isn't a struggle?

Conclude by praying for each other.

As a Christian we are called to respond to Jesus. But it is not just a tag to add to our identity but a call to live a life that is different, under the grace of God. During Lent it is an important time to reflect on how we are living our lives. Do we value the life Jesus has called us to?

As we reflect on this passage, we are called not only to reflect on how we look at life but also how we look at death. If God called us home tonight would it be something we look forward to?

For Paul, both life and death were to be seen in the light of his relationship with Jesus.

Phil. 1:21 'For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.'

Thinking about what we read last week, how might the Philippians have expected Paul's imprisonment to affect:

- his mission?
- his morale?

In v.18, what does Paul say is ultimately important?

Does thinking about life and about death in the way Paul does challenge our priorities, now, in 2021?

Read Philippians 1:18b – 30.

What do you hope to achieve before you die?

What is your attitude to death?

In *Philippians 1:18b-19*, what does Paul mean by deliverance? Is this different to how we would normally consider deliverance?

In vv.25-26, what is Paul's priority in life? What does he hope to achieve? How does this challenge us about how we live our lives?

In *Philippians 1:20-24* what, from Paul's perspective, is the advantage in death? And in life?

How does the way we live our lives reflect on the Gospel of Jesus (v27)?