

How is the way we live our lives so important if we want to witness about Jesus and being his disciples?

As we have seen lives can witness to Jesus, but Paul also highlights the importance of proclaiming Jesus. How can both of these aspects of witnessing be part of your life?

Lent 2021 - Reflections on Christian Priorities

**Study 4: Our lives - a witness to Jesus?
(Sermon - 7 March 2021)**

Philippians 2:12 - 30

In John 13:34 - 35 Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he has loved us. Jesus then went on to say by this people will know we are Jesus' disciples, by loving one another.

How we live our lives will reflect what or who we believe in. As fallen human beings our lives can be inconsistent, so our lives sometime contradict what we believe, but what fundamentally is influencing our behaviour.

In our reading today Paul encourages us to live in the light of Christ's example which we looked at last week, to work out our salvation in co-operation with God's working in us, so that we may live a life different to the world around us and by doing so bear witness to Jesus.

Phil. 2:15b - 16a 'Then you will shine like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to word of life.'

What do you think people may conclude from the type of life you live? Does it reflect your faith in Jesus?

Now read **Philippians 2:12 - 30**

In verses 12 – 13 Paul says you are to “work out your salvation” because God “works in you.” How are these ideas related?

How are we to be different from the “crooked and depraved generation” in which we live (vv14 – 16)? How does this witness to Jesus?

Paul admits that he hopes to boast when Christ returns (v16). Why isn't this conceit?

How is Timothy an example of the Christ-like attitude spoken about (vv19 – 23)?

Why do you think people like Timothy are so rare (v20)?

Why is Paul sending Epaphroditus back to Philippi (v25 – 30)?

Examine your plans and goals during the coming week. How can you bring your own interests into closer harmony with those of Christ Jesus?

What are some practical ways you can serve those around you during the coming week?