

Disciples Church

Joy in death <> Philippians 1:19-30

Week of May 24, 2017

**HAND OUT**

1. **The joy of the sacrificed life:**

**Philippians 1:19** for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, 20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

**Matthew 16:24** Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

**Philippians 1:20** as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

1. **Fruit of the sacrificed life:**

**Philippians 1:24** But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

1. **Command of the sacrificed life:**

**Philippians 1:27** Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**Matthew 10:34** Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. 37Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

**Philippians 1:27** Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are ***standing firm in one spirit***, with ***one mind*** ***striving side by side for the faith of the gospel*,** 28 and **not frightened in anything by your opponents**. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**Proverbs 6:16-19** (ESV)

16 There are six things that the Lord hates,

seven that are an abomination to him:

17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue,

and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 a heart that devises wicked plans,

feet that make haste to run to evil,

19 a false witness who breathes out lies,

and one who sows discord among brothers.

**Philippians 1:28** and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

**Philippians 1:29** For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**Conclusion:**

**Philippians 1:20** as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

Christian, we tend to think of death in relation to our age. As we get older and frailer, we realize that we are on our way out and tend to see the inevitability of death a little clearer. When we are younger, we tend to not think much of death unless there is a “tragedy” in our lives. But what do you do, 20-year-old Christian, when you’re diagnosed with cancer? What do you do 34-year-old father of 5 when your bride doesn’t wake up one morning?

Do not dwell on this in a morbid way, but as a Christian the word of God has given us the information we need to rightly form our worldview and handle situations like this. We must see the joy in God taking his child home to be with him. There is definitely mourning in these situations, but they should also be filled with celebration and joy.

Paul gives us this insight to death in:

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-15** 13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Paul’s instruction here for the Christian is to be encouraged that death is not to us what it is to the world. Death for the Christian is eternal life with our Lord realized and experienced in a better way and this should bring us great hope! We should not grieve our deaths as others do who have no hope, but we should confidently face our death as one who sees the hope of our union with Christ and says for me to die is gain!

Oh, how we might live differently if we truly believed it was better to be home with our Lord. What might we be willing to risk for God’s glory if death only brought us more joy?

Christian, for those who are not saved, death is the curse that God gave Adam and Eve in the garden and it brings with it eternal death apart from Christ. Would you joyfully be willing to give up your life that others may not face death apart from Christ?