

HOW CAN WE HAVE JOY WHILE SUFFERING?
LESSONS FROM PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE AND DEATH
Philippians 1:21-26

- I. **REVIEW: WE WILL EXPERIENCE JOY WHEN IT IS OUR HEARTS DESIRE FOR CHRIST TO BE MAGNIFIED no matter what happens:** Paul rejoiced because he knew that God would answer prayers and empower him to speak of Jesus, thus magnifying Christ, whether he lives or dies (19-20)

- II. **WE WILL EXPERIENCE HIS JOY WHEN WE ARE YIELDED TO AND FOCUSED ON CHRIST no matter what might happen: Paul understood his reason for living was to serve Christ (which was needed) and if He died, he would be with Him (which was much better) (21-26)**
 - A. **A SUMMARY OF PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE:** "To be living is Christ and to die is gain" (21)

 - B. **HIS DILEMMA AND DESIRE:** Hard pressed from both directions, to live will mean necessary fruitful labor, but to die and be with Christ is much better (22-24)
 1. **What it means to be hard pressed from both directions (22-24)**

 2. **What it means for Paul and us "to be living, Christ":** Necessary, fruitful labor, according to His will, for the Philippians progress and joy in the faith (22, 24-25)

 3. **What it means for Paul and us "to die, gain":** To depart and be with Christ is far better (23)

 - C. **HIS CONFIDENCE:** Paul was confident that continuing to minister the Philippians would cause Christ Jesus to be exalted when he comes (25-26)