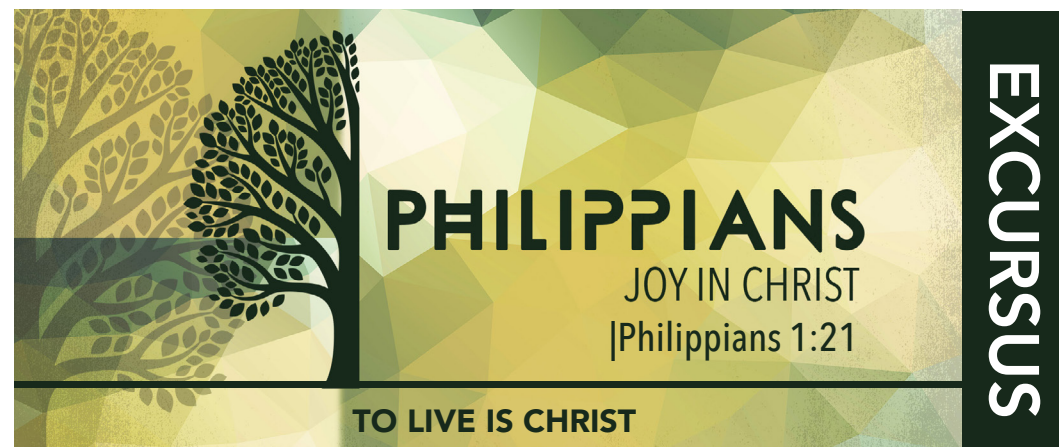


SERMON NOTES:



WESTERN MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH
COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE



OPENING THOUGHT

Having studied verse 21 in its context, I am still compelled to wade further into the waters of this profound sentence. I'm calling this two week study an excursus because we are veering off the consecutive path through Philippians to perform a more detailed examination of this verse. To think of it another way, if our main study is like traveling down the interstate, then this excursus is exiting the highway in order to explore a town.

But why does Philippians 1:21 deserve an extended two-part excursus from our main study? As we studied previously, Paul explained in the following verses the meaning of verse 21. To live is Christ meant fruitful labor, and to die is gain because death means being with Christ. What more needs to be mined out? I believe that Paul's explanation of verse 21 in verses 22-23 is like taking a bucket of water from a well. Verse 21 captures the heart of how the gospel transformed Paul's outlook on life and death; therefore, it also strikes at the heart of the apostle's overall theology. So to me, the well of Philippians 1:21 is simply too deep not to explore in more detail.

I should also note, before we begin our study, that one of the most beautiful qualities of this verse is its simplicity. We read these words and have an immediate grasp on what Paul is communicating. However, much like defining concepts like love, our innate understanding is quite difficult to capture in words. My hope with these two studies then is to express the felt truth of this text in words. By God's grace, I desire to say what we know to be true but may not know how to express.

For more information and resources visit:

www.wmbc.church
www.bcnewton.co

SUGGESTED VERSES FOR MEMORIZATION & MEDITATION

- Philippians 1:21 | For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

GROUP DISCUSSION

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:21 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

1. Which verses stood out most to you as you read Philippians 1:21 this week? Why? What do these verses teach you about who God is?
2. Can you honestly say that Christ is your life?
3. Do you define living around the person and work of Jesus Christ?
4. In what ways is your life reflecting that you belong to Christ and are His ambassador?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Because all Scripture profits us through teaching, reproof, correcting, and training us, reflect upon the studied text, and ask yourself the following questions about the present text

- What has God taught you about Himself?
- What sin is God convicting or reproofing you of?
- How is God correcting you?
- How is God training and equipping you for righteousness?

PRAY AND FAST FOR EAST ASIA

- Pray and fast for the next Western Meadows East Asia team, that the Lord would prepare their hearts and be obedient to the call.

Western Meadows Community Groups

Colemans / Sunday @ 6:00

Mays / Tuesday @ 6:30

Whitleys / Wednesday @ 6:00

Richards / Thursday @ 6:00

Newtons (Spanish) / Monday @ 5:30

For more information ask Andy Whitley