



Week 4 Discussion Questions

Thanksgiving and Prayer

Philippians 1:19-26

Icebreaker:

Read this week's passages: Philippians 1:19-26

What stands out to you from the passages or sermon this week?

Paul is imprisoned as he writes this letter to the Philippians, but when he speaks of deliverance, he looks to the hope of a future salvation beyond his current circumstances. His desire for deliverance in this case is for both the now and the not yet. What circumstance are you currently facing that you desire deliverance and relief?

How does the hope of salvation in Christ orient your response to your current circumstances?

When we remember and believe the truth of the Gospel, our experiences are seen in light of our ultimate hope in being united with Christ and glorifying him in all things. Like Romans 8:18 says, our present circumstances cannot compare to the future we know is coming. When we cling to that truth, we can see current trials through a new lens and it can shape our response and attitudes. A response of hope and faith in the midst of trials is the same as being a light in a dark place, which is a familiar biblical metaphor for our lives.

Paul says it is the prayer of his fellow Christians and the help of the Holy Spirit that allow him to endure his current trials. Who are the people in your life that pray for you regularly and who are you praying for regularly?

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's presence in your life lately and how does this encourage your faith?

Reflect on life right now: What are the top five things you are investing your time and energy into right now? (Not what you want to invest or prioritize, but what is the reality in life right now?)

Based on your current priorities and time investment, what stands out as the central motivation in your life? (For who and what purpose is your life oriented?)

Look back at this week's passage. What does Paul understand is his life's purpose and how does that shape the priorities of his life and time investment?



Paul's life is oriented toward Christ, which for him means a life motivated by service to Christ and to others before himself. We see this orientation displayed in Paul's acknowledgement of his own desires (to be with Jesus) and that he sets aside his own desires for the sake of Christ's mission and the faith of others.

What does Paul mean by the phrase, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." How would your life look different moving forward if this truth were true of you as well? Paul, says in Galatians, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." It is this posture we see in Philippians, when Paul equates living with living united with Christ. While Paul is alive, his life is dedicated to the gospel. But when he dies, he will be with Christ, which makes death a gain and not a loss.

Read Romans 12:3-8. As members of the body of Christ, we are united by a common goal of living out the gospel in the world, but our unique giftings and callings contribute to that goal in various ways. Paul calls this "fruitful labor." How has God gifted or called you specifically? How has God produced fruit in and through you with these gifts? How might he continue or begin to produce fruit in and through your life?