



10-MINUTE BIBLE LESSON

Win/Win

Philippians 1:18b-30

Before watching the video: What do you already know about Paul's letter to the Philippians? What verses or passages from it might you know already? What are you most curious about regarding this letter?

Now read the passage twice. Take time to notice every sentence and phrase. What stands out to you?

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. – ***Philippians 1:18b-30***

After watching the video: Paul sees no downside to either continuing to live or dying, because he places his hope in God's promises of presence and new life either way. And he shares that to inspire the Philippians to live in that same hope. Where do you most need such a hope in your own life?

One of the documents foundational to faith in the United Church of Christ is the Heidelberg Catechism. The opening question and answer says:

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

This is the same idea that Paul holds close during his time in prison. In both life and death, his comfort is that God through Christ is holding him close. Where might you need such a comfort, either in present or in the near future?

Conclude in prayer. Thank God for blessings, ask forgiveness for wrongs done, request help for uncertainty. Close with “amen.”