

Live Your Best Life for Christ

Philippians 1:12-25

Supporting Scripture Psalm 14:1-7

Intro

Our department has been going through several changes in order to satisfy the standards of House Bill 3 and 5. Paperwork has to be done, priorities get shifted, mind gets boggles, you lose focus, and become frustrated, because all this is catching me off guard and pulling me from my original task. So I ask myself does anyone else see how this is frustrating me? Why me right now? As I'm proccing what going on my Assistant Principal who is going through this process with me emailed me something to me that gave me a fresh perspective. She said, "This isn't only happening to you, it's happing everyone in the Career and Technical Deartment".

Question: Do you need a fresh perspective? Is your perspective in line with God's will? Are you seeing what you are really seeing?

Background

Paul is in prison with prisoners that claim to be inspired by his teachings and start to proclaim the word of God. He says some are preaching because they are inspired and some preach intending to make his chains more painful. Paul is frustrated by the actions of these prisoners and it can make you lose your focus, if you don't have the right perception. In my automotive profession, some people worked to provide a good service for the customer and some worked just for money. I want to tell you right now, don't be frustrated, change your perspective. Don't let frustration cheat you out of a worthy relationship with Christ. **Question:** Are you living your best life for Christ?

Today we are going to focus on three things that will lead us to living a life worthy of Christ.

I. **Change your Perspective-** two things are happening in verses 12-14. First Paul mentions, there were some things that took place that have served to advance the gospel. First, ¹³ *As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard^[b] and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.*

Even though Paul was prisoner, people all throughout the prison recognized him as a servant of Christ. (Look back at Joseph) The only reason they recognized he was in chains for God is because of his character. It is something about having a relationship with God that shows up in your character. There are times you have to be a little nicer, a little patient, maybe more loving. The main point here is God is seen through you character.

Second, *most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.*

When you have a relationship with God that matches your declaration, people get curious and wonder, what is it about your God that has you so passionate? How can you love a God you can't see and have so much joy? What is it about your God? When we live a worthy life for God, our life speaks for us. Sometimes the words in the Bible don't bring them to Christ, it could be your lifestyle. To live a life worthy of Christ means you live a lifestyle of worship and gratefulness. The Bible says, brothers and sisters became confident. Do you know where your confidence comes from? Your confidence comes from the result of God acting in your life and others. That action comes from a true relationship with God.

II. Regain Perspective- in verses 18-18 *But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.*

Sometimes our focus can give us the wrong perspective. Most people like to look at the motive and the reason behind a messenger. Why is he/she in the prayer ministry or hospitality ministry? Even David struggles in the area:

*Psalms 14:1-2 Only fools say in their hearts,
"There is no God."
They are corrupt, and their actions are evil;
not one of them does good!*

*2 The Lord looks down from heaven
on the entire human race;
he looks to see if anyone is truly wise,
if anyone seeks God.*

The answer we shouldn't worry or judge why people do what they do. To regain perspective, we have to say, the work is getting done, and allow God to handle the situation. They may accidentally have a real experience while they are playing around with God's work (kind of like playing with matches). I have not seen a verse in the Bible that says, punish and defeat false teachers, but Jesus did say, beware. It was a false teacher that made me start reading and paying attention to the word of God (Romans 8:28). Good or bad allow God to do His will.

III. Enhance your Perspective- verse 20 *For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die.*

Anytime you enhance something you are amplifying or intensifying the colors in a picture or sound in the music, you are making things better than how it started. One way we can enhance our perspective after we have regained it is to continue to be bold in our relationship with Christ. As we live day to day it is important that we never lose sight of why we started with God in the first place. Each one of us has to be accountable for our own relationship with God. Paul says, I have an expectation that I'm going to reach and I want the relationship to be just as good now as it was when I started. Paul has an expectation to bring honor to God by living a lifestyle that is pleasing to God. Expectation holds you accountable, expectation enhances your perception on life, because you know that as you are working, God is working.

Close

No matter what we go through in life, we cannot risk losing our relationship with God over a lost perception. The strongest point of your perception in life, is your relationship with God. The most important part of your relationship with Christ is to live a life that is worthy of Christ's presence. Going to the cross was not a easy perspective for Christ, even though he prayed for the cup to be removed, He lined up with God's will and did it any. Through that God used His life to give salvation to all.

Question: How does your perspective need to change so God can get something out of your life?