

PHILIPPIANS

JESUS OUR JOY

A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of November 8, 2020

Whether By Life or By Death

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Philippians 1:19-20](#)

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

- The section of Philippians just before this morning's text says, "Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice..." ([Philippians 1:15-18](#))
- Paul's joy is fixed in the hope that God will work, through the prayers of His people and the movement of the Holy Spirit, that he will be set free from prison. However, his hope is fixed on something greater than just a temporal deliverance. His bigger hope is that Jesus will be glorified.
- Paul is driven to prayer not to despair and he wants the Philippians to keep on praying for him
- It is also important to note that his words, "This will turn out for my deliverance" is a quote from [Job 13:15-16](#), "Though He slay me, I will hope in Him; yet I will argue my ways to His face. This will be my deliverance."
- Paul must have been reflecting on Job as he waits his trial. What is he actually looking for here? Deliverance from prison and possible martyrdom? Yes.
- But ultimately he longs for vindication for himself in the Judgment of Christ and for the Cross to be his ultimate satisfaction.
- The other thing to note in this passage is the effect of prayer upon the life, suffering and witness of fellow Christians. Paul believes that God does work through the prayers of His people.

For Further Discussion: *Philippians 1:19-20*

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- What is **hope**?
- What **kills** hope? What **strengthens** hope?
- Tell the group about a time you **endured trouble**. How did the experience **affect your faith**?
- Paul has been writing about His confidence in the Gospel and reasons to rejoice, despite imprisonment and affliction ([Philippians 1:12-18](#)). He is certain that his current situation, as hard as it is, will **turn out for his deliverance** (19). What does he mean by "**deliverance**"?
- Paul expects that he will be delivered, and he knows that **God will use certain means** (19). **What are they**?
- What things do we learn about **how prayer works** in verse 19?
- Paul will regard either execution or release from prison as deliverance because he **eagerly expects and hopes something**. **What is it?** (20)
- **Meditate on verse 20** and God's promises to us, asking the Lord for shamelessness and courage. How can **Christ be exalted in your body** by your **life** or by your **death**?
- **Pray together** in light of today's passage. Ask for the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ as you pray for all who need deliverance. Ask the Lord for full courage to honor Christ, together with all believers.

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