

Title ideas:
The Joy of Knowing God's Fruit!
The Joy of knowing God's Purpose!

Philippians 1:19-26 - The Joy of Knowing God's Purpose!

Scriptures:

Acts 4:8 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel...

Philippians 2:17 - Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

2 Timothy 4:18 - And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

19 For I know that this will turn out for my

deliverance through your prayer and the supply of

4991 - salvation

1223 - because of

1162 - plea,
request, petition,
divine entreaty

2024 - provision,
support, help

the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

4151 -

Notes:

Paul ended the last paragraph saying that the furtherance of the gospel was the main thing. If that was happening, he would rejoice, even if the motivation of some of the people doing it was wrong.

'this will turn out' - Even though Paul's circumstances looked grim, he was confident in God's ultimate salvation. Paul's confidence came from his awareness of their prayers for him which would release the infinite supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

All Christians always have all of the Holy Spirit all of the time. But there are times when they are 'filled' with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8). Paul believed that their prayers would continue to supply Paul with his spiritual needs in the Holy Spirit.

Paul was confident but it was not self-confidence or self-sufficiency.

Paul had hope enough in Christ to see past his circumstances, but he was also a realist (Phil. 2:17).

'poured out' = to die

'deliverance' - Paul is referring to the final deliverance which occurs when we stand before Christ (2 Tim. 4:18).

Paul was convinced that God's good would come out of his current circumstances. This was not because of his great faith or because he had some spiritual credit that obligated God. He was convinced that their prayers of love mixed with the Spirit of God that the supernatural was possible.

Here is the great Apostle Paul describing the value of the prayers of the humble Philippians. It doesn't take men or women to move God's heart to act - it takes humble men and women of faith.

Paul knew enough about the Philippians to know that they pray for him. As a pastor, it brings me great joy and comfort to know that there are people in the church who are praying for me.

Their prayers and what the Holy Spirit would provide would be sufficient for Paul's needs.

Scriptures:

1 John 2:28 - And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

²⁰ according to **my** earnest expectation and **hope** 

603 – excited expectation – ‘eager anticipation n. — an intensely desired expectation with a high confidence of fulfillment.’

1680 – looking forward to in confident expectation

Notes:

Because Paul kept the gospel the main thing, he was confident that Christ would be honored by his life.


The symbol for the American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society is an ox standing between an altar and a plow with the motto, “Ready for either”.

Paul wasn’t certain if he would be released from prison or martyred. But either way he expected the name of Christ to be exalted.

‘ashamed’ – “Be disappointed by the failure of divine help.” (Mounce, 1990) page 1323

that in nothing **I** shall be ashamed, but with all

153 – ‘to be ashamed v. — to be or become characterized by feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment, or remorse.’

boldness, as always, so now also **Christ** 

3954 – courage, confidence, frankness

will be magnified in **my** body, whether by **life** or 

3170 – honor highly, glorify

2222 -

by **death**. 

2288 -

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 5:17 -
Therefore, if anyone is in
Christ, he is a new creation;
old things have passed
away; behold, all things
have become new.

Galatians 2:20 - I have been
crucified with Christ; it is no
longer I who live, but Christ
lives in me; and the life
which I now live in the flesh
I live by faith in the Son of
God, who loved me and
gave Himself for me.

1 Corinthians 12:13 - For
now we see in a mirror,
dimly, but then face to
face. Now I know in part,
but then I shall know just as
I also am known.

21 For to **me**, to **live** **is** Christ, and to **die** **is** gain.

2198 – be alive

599 -

2771 - profit

Notes:

If you live for this world, then to die
is the loss of all things.

“In these four senses, he might well
say, ‘For to me to live is Christ’ – to
know Christ more, to imitate Christ
more, to preach Christ more, and to
enjoy Christ more.” (Spurgeon,
2015) – page 25

‘to die is gain’ - Only a true Christian
could make this claim. Paul knew
that death frees him from all sin,
from all doubts and temptations. It
frees him from pain, physical.
Emotional, spiritual. There is no fear
or worry. He would be out of the
reach of all enemies and safe from
any harm. And the greatest gain of
all is to be in the presence of his
Blessed Savior.

“To die is gain because in the
absence of life’s limitations union
with Christ will be completely
realized.” (Mounce, 1990) page 1323

In these bodies we cannot know
Christ as well as we should (1 Cor.
13:12). But once we put off these
earthly vessels, our bodies, and are
joined to Christ in heaven, we will
see him perfectly.

Scriptures:

22 But if *I* live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit

4561 – corporeal
mass of human,
physical body,
physical nature

2590 - outcome

Notes:

“Of course the choice was not really up to him anyway.” (Lightner, 2004) page 652

from *my* labor; yet what *I* shall choose

2041 - work

138 – select,
prefer

I cannot tell.

1107 – know, tell

Scriptures:

Psalm 16:11 - You will show me the path of life;

In Your presence is fullness of joy;

At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

2 Corinthians 12:1-4 - It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having

4912 - distressed

a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far

1939 - longing

360 - to die

4183/3123 - 'many times/more'

more we shall participate in that which makes the joy of heaven." (Spurgeon, 2015) page 37

better.

2908 - superior

Notes:

Paul is sharing his heart here. He is comparing the glory of eternity with Christ and a life bearing spiritual fruit to Christ. Both are good, one is better for Paul and the other is better for those Paul is called to minister to.

Paul had gotten a glimpse of heaven (2 Cor. 12:1-4). Paul knew it was far better because he had seen it.

Paul had lived a hard life as a Christian. To depart and be with Christ would mean he would be delivered from the persecution and sufferings of his life and find rest in Christ from all his labors.

Death is always better for the Christian. Whether you are a child, teenager, young adult, grown, married, with children, grandparent, or aged senior citizen, departing and going to heaven is far better. A moment in heaven is infinitely better than a long, full, prosperous life on earth.

'desire to depart' – Paul was not considering suicide. Paul's life was not his to take. His life belonged to Christ – only God could take it.

'to depart' carries the idea of a ship casting off its mooring lines and setting sail on the ocean. A ship is better suited for the seas than it is for the port.

'be with Christ' – Heaven is amazing! It will be filled with great and awesome creatures and angels. There will be sights and sounds beyond human description. All of our loved ones and friends who have died believing in Christ will be there. But greater than all of that – so much greater as to make those things of little significance will be the presence of Christ.

"...if heaven is to be with Christ, then the nearer we get to Christ here, the

Scriptures:

24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh **is**

1961 – stay,
continue

4561 -

Notes:

Paul is exceptionally self-aware. He knows what is best for him but then he also knows what is good for those around them.

In the previous message we saw that Paul was gospel-focused, and here in this text we see he was also others focused. These two things are two sides of a coin. You cannot be gospel-centered without being others-centered.

“Personal desire gives way to spiritual need.” (Mounce, 1990) page 1323

more needful for **you**.

316 - necessary

Scriptures:

25 And being confident of this, **I** know that **I** shall

3982 - convinced

Notes:

“Christ was more important to him than life itself, and others were more important to him than being in Heaven with Christ.” (Hughes, 2013) page 62

Paul was convinced that God was not finished with him and he would return to minister to them again. This is not based on prophetic insight, but just an internal sense of God’s will.

remain and continue with **you** all for **your**

4839 – stay with

progress and  joy of faith, 

4297 -
advancement

5479 – gladness
happiness

4102 – state of
certainty with
regard to belief

Scriptures:

26 that **your** rejoicing for **me**

2745 –
justification for
boasting

Notes:

Paul was convinced that his work to further the gospel was not done yet – this was why he was confident that he would be delivered from his current circumstances.

may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by **my**

4052 – be in
abundance

coming to **you** again.

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