

Living a Life that Magnifies Christ Philippians 1:19-26

Introduction:

1. The apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians from prison. He would soon stand in judgment and either be set free or be sentenced to die. Paul wasn't sure which way it would go.
2. But in the midst of his great trial came one of the greatest verses in God's Word. vs. 20
Paul's consuming passion was for Christ to be magnified in his body.
 - The word "magnify" means "to make or declare great, increase."
 - John the Baptist said of Christ, "*He must increase, but I must decrease.*"
 - Paul's attitude was, "No matter which way this thing goes, I want Christ to be made to look great and I want Him to increase."
3. Christian, this is why God left us on this earth - to magnify Christ.
4. This morning, I want to look into this text and allow it to challenge us in living lives that magnify Christ. How can you live a life that magnifies your Savior?

By exercising a complete dependence on Christ – vs. 19

1. Paul was in the middle of a rough situation. He was in prison for preaching the gospel of Christ, and supposed fellow believers were trying to make it harder on him. vs. 16
2. Yet Paul is a man at total peace in verse 19. He is saying, "I know that everything will be alright. I will be delivered out of this situation one way or the other."
3. But what was the source of his peace and confidence? (political connections, strings that influential people were pulling for him, etc.) vs. 19
 - The prayers of God's people
 - The supply of God's Spirit
4. Paul was a man of prayer and he knew he had others praying for him. His dependence was on God who hears and answers prayer. **Colossians 4:3;**
Philemon 22
5. Does it excite you when others tell you that they are praying for you? If you are living a life of total dependence on Christ, it should!
6. Paul also talks about "*the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.*" cf. **Romans 8:19**
 - The Holy Spirit lives within us to supply us with the grace, comfort, peace, and provisions we need to magnify Christ in every situation. There is no situation where we are **unable** to magnify Christ. His Spirit enables us and provides.
7. As we depend on Christ in prayer and depend on His indwelling Spirit, we **will** magnify Christ through every trial and difficulty of life.

By possessing a determination to stand for Christ – vs. 20

1. I love the resolute determination of Paul. When Paul was free and traveling from city to city, he was boldly proclaiming the gospel of Christ. **Romans 1:16**
2. Now he has suffered persecution and it's landed him in prison. The temptation would be to compromise a little, back off of the message somewhat, tone it down.

3. But Paul expresses in verse 20 his determination that he would continue to boldly stand for Christ. I love it when he says, "...as always, so now also..."
 - It's the attitude, "This is what I did and this is what I was when I was free, and this is what I am and what I will continue to do even in the midst of this trial."
4. Paul is saying, "No matter which way this thing goes (life or death), I want to boldly magnify Jesus Christ."
5. So many Christians lose their testimony for Christ when they go through trials and problems. They blame God, get bitter, and wallow in self-pity.
6. But not Paul - he was determined to magnify Christ by boldly standing for Him. Paul had a bull dog determination to speak the gospel of Christ no matter what.

Ephesians 6:19-20

By exhibiting a consuming desire to serve Christ - vs. 21-26

1. Deep down, Paul knew that it would be better for him personally to be executed and go to heaven and be with Christ. vs. 23
2. But something about this scenario didn't set well with Paul. Was he afraid of dying? Not at all. Here is what bothered him - he knew that this would end his opportunity to serve Christ and impact lives. vs. 24-26
3. Paul's concern wasn't for himself, but for these people. He wanted to bring furtherance (advancement) to their spiritual lives, and bring joy to their souls.
4. Yes, **dying** would be **his** gain, but **living** would mean that he could help advance Christ and His cause, and bring forth more spiritual fruit. vs. 21-22
5. What a consuming passion to serve Christ! Can you honestly say, "*For me to live is Christ.*" In other words, my reason and purpose for living is Christ?
6. What if I were to leave a blank at the end? "For me to live is _____." (money, popularity, sports, video games, my job, my kids, my house, car) - How would you honestly fill in the blank?
7. If we are to magnify Christ, there must be a consuming passion to serve Christ. His life lives within us and **He** is the reason we live. He is the focus of our life. He is the center of all that we do. **Galatians 2:20**

In Conclusion:

1. Christian, after you were saved, God left you on this earth for the purpose of magnifying His Son, Jesus Christ. Does your daily life make Him look great?
2. As you depend completely on Him, stand for Him no matter the situation, and fervently serve Him, Christ will be magnified in your body.
3. As you magnify Christ, the lives of others will be greatly impacted.