

Series: N/A

Together for the Gospel “Now as Always”

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Scripture: Philippians 1:12-21

¹²Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. ¹³As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

¹⁵It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Group Session

Opening Questions

How is your life different because of Jesus Christ?

What does real faith look like in a person's life?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. “Character is defined in times of trial and uncertainty, rather in times of calm and peace.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
2. There are four characteristics of the apostle Paul listed below. Which of these characteristics would you most like to be able to describe you?
 - a. He was a man of urgency.
 - b. There was a reckless abandon to his obedience.
 - c. There was absolute clarity to his actions.
 - d. He was “all in” all the time... anywhere, anytime, anyone.

3. "Focusing on the important thing brings clarity to your purpose." Have you ever thought about your purpose? How do we do better at focusing on the important things?
4. There are a number of ways we can preach Christ: Which is these is most challenging to you?
 - a. By our actions: living out your testimony
 - b. By being a witness: sharing your story.
 - c. By being "all in." This means getting your hands dirty, serving someone, taking a risk.
5. "The fundamental truth of persevering is living out the gospel of salvation in your life." How does living the gospel help us to persevere?

Closing Challenge

The acrostic LIVE helps us know how to live out our faith. Choose one of these to focus on this week.

Let the world know who owns you – 1 Cor. 6:20

Intentionally believe you have the courage to stand – 1 Cor 16:13

Visit the Word of God daily

Expect miracles to happen in your life.