

Life in Color #3

Joy in Times of Pain & Suffering

Word

Scripture Reference

Philippians 1:19-30

Discussion Questions

1. Everyone goes through suffering and pain. Share a personal experience where you've suffered and felt pain, yet you emerged victorious because you trusted in God.
2. Read Philippians 1:19-30. Paul, who was in prison at the time, was uncertain whether his future would be death or deliverance. But of one thing he was certain: he wanted to glorify God with his life (v.19-20). As a Christian, how can you glorify God in your life? How does glorifying God make a difference in your life?
3. Paul's outlook in life is crystal clear: *to live is Christ and to die is gain* (v.21-24). Even in life or death, for Paul it was all about Christ. Paul wanted to live to do more for Christ, but because of the intimate relationship he had with Jesus, Paul also couldn't wait to be with Him. What is your perspective of life and death? Why do you think that most people do not like or want to talk about death? If someone asks you what the best day of your life is, would your answer be that it's the day you die because then you get to see Jesus Christ?
4. Why was life worth living for Paul (v. 25-26)? What does it tell you about Paul, that he had so much joy in seeing spiritual growth in his spiritual children? What is your purpose in life? Does it make your life worth living?
5. Paul restated his life goal in verse 27 when he encouraged the Philippian church to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, glorifying God in their lives. As Christians we are citizens of heaven bearing the name of Christ. How do you conduct

yourself to be worthy of Christ's love? Although doing good works will not save you from the penalty of sin (only faith in Jesus Christ alone as your Savior does that), how does your Christian life affect your testimony in bringing others to Christ?

6. Suffering is indeed a part of Christian life. In our suffering we gain an opportunity to show the world that our God is a good, great God by living courageously and joyfully. How does your desire to live for God give you joy in your suffering? Examine your life. Does it proclaim one of joy in the Lord in spite of the pain and suffering you may be going through?

Walk

*"Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know;
fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go..."*

The defining mark of a Christian's life is joy in the Lord. A follower of Christ needs to be able to view life from God's perspective so that he/she can see joy in all circumstances. What are you doing in order to cultivate a life full of joy even in times of pain and suffering? Is your life's purpose to glorify God? Do you share the apostle Paul's perspective that "to live is Christ, and to die is gain?" Does the thought of going to heaven give you hope and happiness?

Worship & Prayer

Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony

Pray for...

- GCCP Christians to learn to trust God more in their sufferings and pain.
- Blessings for the Feb 23 Couples Banquet to help strengthen marriages and homes.
- Good preparations for DVBS and camps.
- Healing for Pedro Dyloco, Betty Tanchip, JTL, Nestor, Rico Gallego (heart surgery), WG's mom, PT.
- Peace and reconciliation for AA's Family.
- More opportunities to bless the Chinese families in nearby communities.