

JOY

Philippians 1:22-26

CHRIST IN OUR CONVERSATION

Big Idea: Joy is the product of Christ-centered conversation.

1.) Ministry should be eagerly *Expected* (v. 22).

-- v. 22 – “...*this will mean fruitful labor for me...*”

-- To live in Christ is to minister in His name for the glory of God.

-- Although Paul can't be sure whether he will live or die, he is certain that living on means ministering on.

-- There is no such thing as *Retirement* from Christ. While the nature of our service may change, our calling to it never does (Ephesians 2:10, Mark 10:43-45).

-- Once we have been converted, God leaves us here for His purposes, not our own.

-- Paul is confident that his service to Christ will be *Fruitful* work.

-- v. 22 – “...*this will mean fruitful labor for me...*”

-- God honors the efforts of those who persevere in ministry (Galatians 6:9-10).

2.) Ministry should be *Others- Focused* (v. 24).

-- v. 24 – “...*more necessary for you that I remain in the flesh...*”

-- Paul's concern was not for himself, but for His fellow believers.

-- He was determined to fight through captivity so that Christ would be exalted—not only in his own life, but also in the lives of others.

-- v. 24 – “...*that I remain in the flesh ...*”

-- We remain in the flesh only for a short time.

- Thus, the only wise way to live in the here and now is for treasures in the *Hereafter* (Ephesians 5:15-16, Matthew 6:19-20).
- While we are on this earth in this life, God has good works for us to do for the benefit of others unto His glory.
- *Do you live to bless others for the glory of God?*
- *Are you making an impact that will endure in eternity?*

3.) Ministry should inspire *Joy* in Jesus (v. 25-26).

- v. 25 – “...for your progress...”
 - Paul rejoiced in the spiritual *Growth* of God’s people.
 - He longed to continue with the church because he rejoiced to see people growing in Christ (Rom. 16:19, 1 Thes. 2:19-20).
- v. 25-26 – “...and joy in the faith so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.”
 - Paul rejoiced when others *Rejoiced* in Christ.
 - Paul labored in the churches so that they might know abundant, overflowing, overwhelming, Christ-centered joy.
- In a nutshell, we see this motivation in Paul: He delighted to see others growing and delighting in Christ.

-- Joy: Christ in Our Conversation

- Wherever Paul went, Jesus took center stage.
- Paul instilled joy by communicating *Christ* in everything.
- Paul lived to talk about Christ to anyone, anywhere, anytime (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Application

1.) Let our *Church* be filled with Christ-centered conversation.

- Be intentional about making Jesus Christ and His Gospel the central theme of our conversation at First Baptist Carmi (Rom. 15:17-18).

2.) Let our *Ministries* be filled with Christ-centered conversation.

-- Never be ashamed to tell others about Christ (Luke 9:26).

3.) Let our conversation instill *Joy* in Christ.

-- v. 25-26 – *“I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.”*

-- There is surely no better way to live life on purpose than this.

-- *What effect does a conversation with you have on other people?*

-- *Would you commit to use your words and your ministry to inspire others to rejoice in Christ?*