

Magnifying Christ in Life and Death

Philippians 1:19-30

Big Idea: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Paul challenges us to magnify Christ in all circumstances. Are we living lives worthy of the gospel? Let our chief passion be Christ glorified, standing firm in unity, and persevering through trials.

Key Takeaways:

1. Paul's primary focus was to glorify Christ in all circumstances, whether in life or death.
2. For believers, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
3. Unity in the work of the gospel is crucial for the church.
4. Living a life worthy of the gospel involves standing firm, contending for the faith, and persevering through suffering.

Scriptures:

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| <input type="radio"/> 1 Corinthians 10:31 | <input type="radio"/> John 17:22-23 |
| <input type="radio"/> Ephesians 1:12 | <input type="radio"/> 1 Peter 3:15 |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 Timothy 4:18 | <input type="radio"/> Jude 1:3 |
| <input type="radio"/> James 5:16 | <input type="radio"/> Psalm 121:7-8 |
| <input type="radio"/> Hebrews 5:14 | |
| <input type="radio"/> John 16:24 | |

Opening Question:

Can you think of a time when you faced a challenging situation and were able to find a way to glorify God in the midst of it?

Discussion Questions:

What does it mean to you to "magnify Christ" in your life? How can we practically enlarge Christ's presence in our daily actions and attitudes?

Mark Mohler asked, "Do I magnify Christ? Do I enlarge Christ when people look at my life?" How would you answer this question for yourself? What areas of your life might need adjustment to better reflect Christ?

Paul states, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." How does this perspective challenge our typical views on life and death? How might embracing this mindset change the way we approach challenges or suffering?

The sermon emphasized the importance of unity in the church. What are some practical ways we can foster unity within our church community, especially when disagreements arise?

How does the idea that suffering for Christ is a "gift" challenge your perspective on difficulties in the Christian life? Can you share an experience where you've seen good come from suffering for your faith?

Mark Mohler mentioned ending every sentence with "God glorified" or "Christ glorified." How might this practice change our daily thoughts and actions? What challenges might we face in trying to implement this?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, try to consciously end your thoughts or statements with "Christ be glorified." Reflect on how this impacts your decisions and attitudes.
2. Identify one area in your life where you struggle to magnify Christ. Create a specific plan to address this area and share it with the group for accountability.
3. Reach out to someone in the church you don't know well or have had disagreements with. Seek to build unity by finding common ground in your faith.
4. Write down your personal testimony of how Christ has worked in your life. Practice sharing it briefly, as preparation for "giving an account for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).
5. As a group, discuss and plan a way to stand firm together in your faith, perhaps by organizing a community outreach or supporting a missionary.
6. Reflect on any current struggles or sufferings you're facing. Pray together, asking God to help you see these challenges as opportunities to glorify Christ.

Closing Thought/Prayer:

As we go about our week, let's focus on living in a way that consistently reflects Christ's glory, both in times of joy and in times of struggle. How can we support and pray for each other in living out our faith boldly and standing united as a community in Christ?
