

## MAGNIFYING CHRIST PHILIPPIANS 1:20

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus is the One whose name must be magnified. (Phil. 2.9-11)
2. The apostle Paul lived His life with Christ at the center to magnify His name in both life and death. [Read Phil. 1.20-23]

### I. BREAKING DOWN THE TEXT

- A. The feelings of Paul.
  1. **PHILIPPIANS 1.20:** *“according to my earnest expectation and hope”* Paul looked to the future.
  2. **PHILIPPIANS 1.20:** *“that in nothing...as always, Christ will be magnified.”* It is all about magnifying Christ.
- B. The focus of Paul.
  1. **PHILIPPIANS 1.21:** *“For to me, to live is Christ.”*
  2. **PHILIPPIANS 1.22:** *“yet what I shall choose I cannot tell”* What was Paul’s preference?
  3. **PHILIPPIANS 1.23:** *“having a desire to depart and be with Christ which is far better.”* (cf. Gal. 2.20)

### II. THE CONTEXTUAL SETTING

- A. The foes of Paul.
  1. **PHILIPPIANS 1.12-14:** *“But I want you to know brethren...”* He was talking to brethren about brethren.
  2. **PHILIPPIANS 1.15:** *“Some indeed preach Christ”* He is talking about those who preach.
  3. **PHILIPPIANS 1.15-17:** *“...even from envy and strife... supposing to add affliction to my chains.”*
- B. The forgiveness of Paul.
  1. **PHILIPPIANS 1.18:** *“and in this I rejoice”*
  2. **PHILIPPIANS 1.12:** *“actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.”* (cf. Luke 17.3)

### III. THOUGHTS OF APPLICATION

- A. Be fair if you are prone to mistreat someone.
  1. Be less judgmental. (John 7.24)
  2. Be more gentle. (Gal. 6.1)
- B. Be affectionate if you are being mistreated. (Matt. 5.44)

**CONCLUSION:** When you look to the future, what do you see?

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*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*  
-Mark 16.15

July 18, 2021

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### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

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### THE GOAL OF LIFE

So many stumble through life without any direction. This has led to depression and confusion as some ask, “Why am I here? What is the meaning of life?” Christianity provides the direction that is so often lacking.

Faithful saints know where they are headed, and they know how they are to get there. In reference to the goal of eternal life, Paul wrote, *“I press on”* (Phil. 3.12). He continued to explain that he is always *“reaching forward to those things which are ahead.”* He said that his goal was *“the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 3.13,14). At the end of his life, he said that he had reached his goal knowing that *“there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that day...”* Paul was confident in obtaining eternal life, and with that he adds, *“...and not to me only, but also to all who have loved His appearing”* (1 Tim. 4.8). Eternal life is the goal of every Christian, and to all who make it their goal, there is a confidence that we will receive it.

Before the goal of heaven can be reached, we must have as our goal *“to be well pleasing to Him”* (2 Cor. 5.9). Only when we live for Him through faith and obedience can the reward of heaven be granted. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ”* (2 Cor. 5.10; cf. Ecc. 12.13,14).  
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## FAITH OVERCOMES FEAR

### MARK 4:40

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. There are things in this world that are terrifying, but Jesus promised to give us peace. (John 14.27)
2. After a terrifying windstorm put the disciples in danger, Jesus teaches that fear and faith are incompatible. [Read Mark 4.35-41]
3. Someone who has faith can conquer their fears.

#### I. THREE OBSERVATIONS ABOUT JESUS

- A. The humanity of Jesus.
  1. **MARK 4.35:** *“On the same day, when evening came.”*
  2. Jesus had a very long day involving healing, teaching, and confrontations by the religious leaders. (Mark 4.1,2)
  3. **MARK 4.37,38:** In the midst of a great windstorm, an exhausted Jesus slept right through it.
  4. Being human, Jesus understands. (Heb. 2.14,17,18)
- B. The deity of Jesus.
  1. **MARK 4.39:** *“Then He arose and rebuked the wind and said to sea, ‘Peace, be still!’”*
  2. **MARK 4.39:** *“there was a great calm.”*
  3. **MARK 4.41:** *“Who can this be?”*
- C. The charity of Jesus.
  1. **MARK 4.36:** There were many who were in danger.
  2. **MARK 4.37,38:** The disciples were in danger.
  3. **MARK 4.40:** Jesus asked two questions.

#### II. JESUS OFFERS PEACE

- A. Jesus offers us peace with God.
  1. God is both good and severe. (Rom. 11.22; Ps. 23.11  
Jonah 4.2; Heb. 12.29; Matt. 10.28)
  2. Through faith in Jesus, I can be at peace. (Rom. 5.1,9)
- B. Jesus offers us peace with others.
  1. In the face of racial divisions. (Eph. 2.14; Gal. 3.28)
  2. In the face of our relationships. (Rom. 12.18; 14.19)
- C. Jesus offers us peace with ourselves.
  1. We do not have inner peace while striving for and falling short of perfection. (Gal. 3.13)
  2. Christ freed us from being good enough. (Rom. 5.17,19)

**CONCLUSION:** We are in peril every day, but we have faith.

## BEGGING FOR YOUR LIFE

Imagine a gunman walking into your grocery store pulling the trigger and taking lives. Imaging the barrel of the gun aimed at you. Would you beg for your life? Would you plead for mercy? Would you hope that the gunman who seems to enjoy hurting people and taking lives would have some sense of sympathy? Right now, there is one who is begging for your life, and it is not you. It is God.

Life is all about free will. You can choose to live or die. God Himself says, *“I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life”* (Deut. 30.19). Notice that life and death is a choice. Notice also that God implores us to choose life.

All through the Bible, God begs for humanity to choose life. He pleads in Ezekiel 33.11: *“I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! Why should you die?”* In the New Testament, the apostle Paul wrote, *“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God”* (2 Cor. 5.20).

In spite God begging for your life, so many choose death. Why does most of the world choose eternal condemnation over eternal life? Jesus challenges us to *“enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it”* (Matt. 7.13). He then explains why. He describes the narrow way as *“difficult”* and the broad way as *“easy”* (Matt. 7.14). Most of the world choose death over life because it is the path of least resistance. But there is another reason given to us. 1 John 5.19 tells us that *“the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.”* Most people choose the path that leads to destruction because they do not know where it leads (John 12.35).

If God does not want us to be lost, why does He not just save everyone? Isn’t God all powerful (Jer. 32.17,27). God is indeed all-powerful. Yet there are two things God cannot do relative this discussion. First, He cannot associate Himself with sin. If you sin, there can be no fellowship with God (1 John 1.5,6). Second, God cannot interfere with your free will (Rom. 1.24,26,28).

God has gone to extraordinary measures to save you. God who cannot associate with sin, gave His Son so that we can wash away our sins and be in fellowship with God (1 John 1.17). And now God, who does not interfere with free will, begs for your life. He begs you to choose life by accepting His salvation. CLP