**Philippians 1:19-30**

*“Gospel is #1”*

***Scripture:*** Philippians 1:19-30

***Memory Verse:*** *“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”* Philippians 1:21

***Lesson Focus:*** The Gospel should be the #1 thing in our lives.

***Activities and Craft:*** 1st and 2nd: Coloring page and Craft: Prison chain – Paper Chain

Give each of the kid’s strips of construction paper. Have them glue or tape their paper chain together with the words of the verse in-between each of the construction paper pieces.

As they work remind them that Paul was in prison and he wanted his life to count for Jesus.

3rd-5th: Student page questions to be done after the lesson back in the room

***Introduction:***

Ask the kids, what is the #1 thing you would want in your life?

 Here is what some people said are the top 10 things they would want in their lives.

 #1: Happiness

 #2: Money

 #3: Freedom

 #4: Peace

 #5: Joy

 #6: Balance

 #7: Fulfillment

 #8: Confidence

 #9: Stability

 #10. Passion

 Today we are going to learn what should be the #1 thing in our lives.

***Bible Lesson***

 Reminder: Where is Paul? (In prison)

 **Philippians 1:19-20:** *“I will not be ashamed”*

√ In verse 19 – what is Paul depending on from the Philippians? (prayer

 √ What is Paul depending on from God? (The Holy Spirit)

The word for “deliverance” actually means “salvation.” Paul is not talking about his physical deliverance from prison – but his ultimate deliverance to Heaven. Paul was confident of where he was going – whether he is let out of this Roman prison or not. But Paul still asks for their prayers that he would be strong in the Holy Spirit. Paul knows that without the Spirit we cannot walk by faith. The Holy Spirit is our source of all faith and power in God. We need His filling every day and every minute. Paul had a great amount of confidence – but not in himself. His confidence was in Jesus and in the prayers for the Holy Spirit’s filling.

This should be our prayer for anyone that we know is going through hard situations. This should be our prayer for anyone that we pray for. Pray that the Holy Spirit would fill them so that they would walk in God’s confidence.

 √ What does Paul declare in Philippians 1:20?

When Paul says, “according to my earnest expectation and hope” he does not sue the word “hope” in the same way we do. His hope is not “he hopes that he gets pizza tonight for supper.” No, his hope is that God is God and He will cause these things to happen in the future.

1. That he would not cause shame
2. That he would be bold
3. That Christ will be magnified in his body (whether he lives or dies)

Paul declares that through his life he does not want to cause shame to Jesus. He wants to be bold in how he lives and what he says.

That Jesus would always be lifted up in how he lives or dies.

√ Is that stuff easy?

√ How do we shame Jesus?

√ Are we always bold for God? When is it hard to be bold?

√ Is it easy to say that I would always magnify Jesus even if I have to die?

(Who else said that in the Bible? Peter made that claim to Jesus, when Jesus told him that Peter would deny Him. Peter said that he would never deny Jesus and that he would even die for him. ) Is that what happened?

 **Philippians 1:21--26:** *“To Live is Christ”*

Paul could say that to “live is Christ” because Paul was “in Christ.” Paul was a new creation because of what Christ did on the cross. (1 Corinthians 5:17) Paul knew that everything that he had “spiritually” was because of Jesus. In Ephesians 1, Paul uses the phrase “in Christ” many times to tell us our source of spiritual life. Paul could also say, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20) This is not just some emotional saying for Paul – he knows that even through the hard times he is living for Christ because Christ is in him.

Christ is Paul’s “everything.” Is Christ your “everything?” Why or why not? What gets in our way of Christ being enough?

**Funny Story:** A little boy said, “Dad, did Grandpa make you go to Sunday school when you were my age?” His father said, “He sure did. We went every Sunday.” The boy said sadly, “Well, I bet it won’t do me any good either.”

Going to Church does not make us love Jesus the most. It does not make the gospel #1 in our lives. Our relationship with Jesus changes everything. To Paul, what Christ did dying on the cross for the world was everything! That means the gospel was everything! Everything Paul did was for Jesus.

√ What does this verse mean?

 Paul goes on to explain what he means in the following verses.

1. Living means fruit for Jesus – means that he will tell people about Jesus and that people will come to know Jesus.
2. To die and go to Jesus is glorious. To be face with Jesus will be amazing. Paul knows that this is the better place to be.
3. To remain and do ministry is better for the Philippians.
4. If he remains he will have joy in doing ministry as they have done in the past.

**Philippians 1:27-30:** *“Let your conduct be worthy”*

√ What does the word “conduct” mean?

 √ What does it mean that our “conduct” should be worthy of Christ?

 √ What does it mean that our “conduct” should be worthy of the “Gospel” of

 Christ?

“This phrase in the Greek language means “citizenship.” They were to live as citizens of Heaven. The Philippi people lived as a part of Rome where there was a lot of Idol worship and evil.

To Paul, the gospel what #1 as we saw in Philippians 1:18

 √ What does Paul want to see or hear from the Philippians church?

1. They are in one spirit (Holy Spirit)

The Philippians were to stand firm with the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They cannot fight the battle of the Roman “culture” on their own power. They are not like the little train that said, “I think I can, I think I can…” Only God’s power through the Holy Spirit would help them stand strong.

1. That they have one mind. Paul prays that they will be of one mind and for the same purpose of the Gospel. (It was said of Lewis and Clark – that they had such great discoveries because they were a team. Paul knew that the success of the Philippi church depended on teamwork. Jesus knew this when He prayed for His disciples before the Cross that they would be of one mind, like He and the Father where of one mind.
2. That they are striving together for the faith of the Gospel. A good team all goes in the same direction.
3. That they are not afraid of their enemies. The word Paul uses here is that same word that is used for “panic.” Paul is telling them to trust that God is sovereign, God is in charge. No matter what they may face from those who opposed Christianity – they could trust that God knew and that God would give them the grace to go through it.

√ What does Paul tell the Philippian church that they will experience?

 (suffering – just as Paul is suffering for the gospel.)

The word for “granted” means grace. God gave them grace when they believed in Jesus and God gives them grace to suffer for Jesus. Salvation and sufferings are both gifts of grace.

**Conclusion:** Is the gospel of Jesus Christ the #1 thing in your life?