

HOPEFUL JOY FOR HURTFUL TIMES

Philippians 1:18-26

Paul's Painful Options

- Death (*Phil. 1:20-21*)
- Hard labor in ministry (*Phil. 1:22; 2 Cor. 11:23-28*)

Paul's Delightful Dilemma

- And yet, Paul had joy and hope (*Phil. 1:8-19*)
- To Paul, it was win-win (*Phil. 1:23*)
- Paul focused on what he valued most: Christ (*Phil. 1:21*)

Paul's Focus on the Prize: Jesus Christ

- A focus on the results and not the pain (*Phil. 1:6; Rom. 8:28; Jas. 1:2-4*)

- A focus on the treasure of Christ being highly exalted (*Phil. 1:20, 22, 24-26; 2:9-11*)
- A focus on the treasure of Christ being fully experienced (*Phil. 1:21, 23*)
- A focus on the treasure of Christ being generously shared (*Phil. 1:22, 25-26*)

Our Experience of Joy in Jesus

- We have access to the same resources:
 - the help of the Spirit (*Phil. 1:6, 19*)
 - the prayers of fellow believers (*Phil. 1:19*)
- Focus forward and bring the joy backwards