

SERMON NOTES

Joy for the Journey: Living With An Eternal Purpose!
Philippians 1:12-30

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a “guidestone” as a marker for travelers. Paul was able to rejoice in his circumstances because he believed his life was to be lived with an eternal purpose. The Christian life is marked with many opportunities that compel us to live with an eternal purpose rather than merely living for the moment. I encourage you to live with an eternal purpose that has a daily impact on your earthly existence.

Key thought: When you live with an eternal purpose, you can rejoice in whatever circumstances you encounter.

PAUL WAS GUIDED ON HIS JOURNEY BY THREE QUESTIONS:

1. Paul asked the question, “How can my circumstances be used to proclaim Jesus Christ?” (vs. 12-18)

- a. Your circumstances are an opportunity to make an impact with the gospel. (vs. 12-13)
- b. Your circumstances are an opportunity to be an influence on others. (v. 14)

2. Paul asked, “How can my circumstances be used to prepare me to meet Jesus Christ? (vs. 19-24)

Jim Elliott once said, “No man is a fool to give what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”

3. Paul asked, “How can my circumstances be used to encourage others in their relationship with and responsibility to Jesus Christ?” (vs. 26 – 30)

A. Paul’s expectation

- How can I help others to stand firm?
 - In one spirit
 - In one mind
- How can I help others to strive together?
 - For the faith
 - For the gospel

B. Paul’s explanation

- The reality of opposition
- The reality of suffering

“Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel.”
Philippians 1:12 (NASB95)

Take away:

1. Redeem every circumstance to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Redeem every circumstance as an opportunity for spiritual growth.
3. Redeem every circumstance as an opportunity to encourage others.