

+ September 14,21,27 series: "MKGG": The stick-figure sketch that started it all. *"This is what we are all about!"*

+ Our 2013 wedding anniversary: the same exercise on a personal level. *This is what he was all about!"*

+ **A question:** What would you like someone to write on your gravestone? *Something borrowed?*

The hypochondriac.

I TOLD YOU I WAS SICK

Martin Elginbrodde.

HERE LIE I, MARTIN ELGINBRODDE

HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL, LORD GOD

AS I WOULD DO, WERE I LORD GOD

AND YOU WERE MARTIN ELGINBRODDE

OR, we can look to THE APOSTLE PAUL...We CAN and SHOULD look to THE APOSTLE PAUL AS AN EXAMPLE

Philippians 4:9 ESV What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Our TEXT: **Philippians 1:19-21** ESV ... I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

HOW THE APOSTLE PAUL SAW HIMSELF AND HIS LIFE

1. He saw himself as a servant of Christ.

Philippians 1:1 ESV Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus...

As in, *"Well done, you good and faithful servant"*

MORE than a servant. Also a son (or daughter). But **NOT less than a servant**, for it is a great privilege!

Luke 17:7-10 ESV "Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

Q: In your heart: some desire to be someone's servant? A very great privilege: a very great Master!!!

Think of Sam Gamgee serving Mr. Frodo

And Mr. Carson serving Lord Grantham

Christ, our Master is PERFECTLY JUST / WISE / POWERFUL / KIND

And what should a good, faithful servant be busy with?

2. He saw his life as mainly concerned about the interests of Christ.

Philippians 2:19-21 ESV I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

BUT what ARE these *"interests" of Christ*? → Paul might say: the **"gospel"**. (Mentioned 8 times in this letter.)

For example: **Philippians 2:21,22** ESV For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in **the gospel**.

SO → What Christ is interested in is THE GOSPEL.

But not for its own sake.

As the instrument by which Christ accomplishes what he IS most interested in.

THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL

+ People like you and me freed from the penalty of sin (Because “slaves of sin”)
Getting the gospel “out” → evangelism → justification

+ People like you and me freed from the power of sin
Getting the gospel “in” → discipleship → sanctification

IN OTHER WORDS: **What Christ is interested in is *building his church*:** out of ordinary people.

Philippians 2:20 *“no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare...”*

Turning them into GOOD, FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF HIS OWN: *pleasing to God, holy, “Christlike”!*

Paul saw himself as an ordinary human being who was working on becoming, AND WHO WAS BEING WORKED ON TO BECOME, a good, faithful servant of Christ. NOT TO BE MISSED:

Being mainly interested in “the interests of Christ” changes us.

For example, it changes the way we understand our circumstances.

As we can see in our text: **Philippians 1:19** ESV ... I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ **this will turn out for my deliverance..**

PAUL IS QUOTING FROM THE BOOK OF JOB **Job 13:15-16** ESV Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face. ***This will be my salvation...***

His understanding of how God was involved in the operation of this world enabled him to look at **every one of his circumstances** as a part of the process by which he was being conformed to the image of Christ.

This allowed him to look at all of the details of his circumstances with **CONFIDENCE AND COURAGE!**

Even the most difficult ones.

3. He saw his own death and dying as “gain.”

“Gain”? **As a servant of Christ**, Paul looked at his own death as one more opportunity (one last opportunity) to honor Christ. **Philippians 1:20,21** ESV ... it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain..

From his POV, all of his life, **including his death**, was dedicated to this one thing: **honoring his Master.**

WHY DO WE NOT GIVE THIS MUCH ATTENTION?

We have a natural tendency to deny what we cannot understand, AND what we wish wasn't true.

Our 36th anniversary: a good and valuable exercise.

No good excuse for married people to ignore the Fact of Death. Right there in the wedding vows: *“Until death do us part.”*

Personally, I'm glad not to have missed the opportunity to “try on dying for size.” I'd recommend it!

The Puritans understood this. John Owen and Richard Baxter's wife. And Richard Baxter.

“I preached as never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men.”

THE QUESTION WE'RE LEFT WITH, IN TWO PARTS

PART 1: What would you like to have written on your gravestone?

Again, we could borrow from **the hypochondriac?**

I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO DIE.

PART 2: What are you doing about it?

In the next few weeks, all of our regular ministries and programs are re-starting.

THIS MORNING: “Communion”