

Philippians: Gospel Partnership

Gospel Perspective for Gospel Partners

- ISN'T LIFE WONDERFUL WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF...^{of}
- as situation in which both outcomes are favourable
- Sporeling Driveway
- Pen Auction
- Bake Sale

Intro

- Paul's gospel perspective, as he looks forward, reveals that life for gospel partners, ultimately, is win-win

Philippians 1:18-26 ESV

Yes, and I will rejoice, [19] for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, [20] 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. [21] For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. [22] If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. [23] I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. [24] But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. [25] Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, [26] so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Ultimate Salvation ** Paul begins looking to the future **

- Deliverance (soteria) = salvation = rescue from physical or spiritual danger
- Release from prison?
- More likely, final, eschatological deliverance – Why?
- Everywhere Paul uses this term, soteria, it means spiritual deliverance
- When Paul is talking about physical deliverance, he uses a different word
- **2 Timothy 4:18 ESV** [18] The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- Rescue = rhyomai (who-am-I)

Salvation is coming – Gospel Perspective #1 – v19-20

Looking @ things through the person and work of Jesus

A **JOYFUL** perspective – Paul's deep, abiding delight in God does not depend on his physical surroundings when his ultimate spiritual salvation is in view *also doesn't depend on his physical FUTURE*

A perspective that depends on **PRAYER** and the **HOLY SPIRIT**

- these are two instruments God uses to bring salvation
- Trinitarian salvation

An **EXPECTANT** and **HOPE-FILLED** perspective

- Grammar Paul uses indicates that this is one entity
- Eager expectation – emotional dimension that is unshakeable – longing
- Hope – commentary defined as looking forward with **reason** for confidence in its fulfillment

All of who he is – body is included

A perspective concerned with **GOD'S GLORY** – Concern is that Christ will be honoured – make great, magnify

A perspective that includes **PREACHING** the gospel – Witness may cause his death, by life or death, but Paul want to be courageous and bold

Does this sound like your perspective: dependent on prayer

HS, expectant and joy-filled, concerned about God's glory + continually preaching the gospel?

Paul brings some focus... zooms in ...

To live...to die! – Gospel Perspective #2 – v21

To live – Christ, to die – gain

Gospel perspective can be incredibly wide, encompassing how Paul views other Christians, present circumstances, the beginning of our spiritual lives to their completion, the preaching of the gospel regardless of motives, the advancement and the of the gospel

But here Paul focuses the gospel perspective on 6 words which, in some ways, encompass everything

- To live – Christ, to die – gain

And they speak to the win-win situation

- To live – Christ, to die – gain

Eadie: "For me to live is Christ—the preaching of Christ the business of my life; the presence of Christ the cheer of my life; the image of Christ the crown of my life; the spirit of Christ the life of my life; the love of Christ the power of my life; the will of Christ the law of my life, and the glory of Christ the end of my life. Christ was the absorbing element of his life. If he travelled, it was on Christ's errand; if he suffered, it was in Christ's service. When he spoke, his theme was Christ; and when he wrote, Christ filled his letters."

Illustration ⇒ a life of gospel saturation → WORK OUT TOWEL

IS YOUR LIFE SATURATED WITH WHO CHRIST IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE?

And as incredible as all that living entails, death was gain!

Being with
God is the
point of the
whole Bible

- Death is not gain because one escapes from life...life is Christ.
- But death is gain because it means the consummation of union with Christ

~~# We are not called to live life as you do, with
no love about as much as we can.~~

GOSPEL

Paul's deliverance, his salvation, could not be answered with "what" questions—What if I remain in prison? What if I am tortured? What if people have bad motives towards me? What if I'm released from prison? What if I die?

Paul's deliverance is answered with a "who" question? Living is Christ, and dying is Christ in an even more fulfilling way.

So for Paul,

Salvation is Christ – Gospel Perspective #3 – v23-26

- Paul explains the two options before him—life and death—and what they might look like. He is uncertain of where it will go
- To live is fruitful labour for him – this is enthusiasm and optimism...he's chained and in prison, but Christ is preached and the gospel advances
- Being with Christ is better...he understands this, but he is conflicted
- He sets aside his personal desires to serve his gospel partners...it is necessary for their account
- So to live is to see the progress of the gospel and their joy in the gospel
- The gospel perspective of Paul, in every situation, however it plays out, revolves around Christ. Christ is his salvation.
- And this leads Paul to again point to the ultimate end of everything: the glory of God

so you may have ample cause to
glory in Christ Jesus

Treasure Christ

- A gospel perspective entails treasure Christ above all things. We need to learn to treasure Christ above what lies ahead of us. One of the ways we can do this is by comparing Christ and his work for us-the gospel-over and against what we face in the future.
- Adolescent boy – pornography/^{physical pleasures} drugs/alcohol/^{sex} – you need to treasure the forgiveness of your sins in the shed blood of Jesus more than the pursuit of physical pleasure in porn, drugs, alcohol, or even exercise
- Adolescent girl – acceptance/popularity – you need to relish being reconciled to God through the death of Christ over and above being popular or looking good in the estimation of your peers ⇒ "IN CHRIST, GOD WILL THINK HIGHLY OF YOU"
- Young adult single – marriage – you need to desire and delight in the great sacrificial love of Jesus for you that is illustrated in marriage more than you love marriage itself
- Young adult married – friendship – you need to cherish the propitiating of God in the cross of Christ, causing his enmity towards you to become friendly, over and above your desire for close personal relationships
- Adult man – accumulating wealth – you need to prize the gift of eternal life that is offered in and through Jesus' death over and above the accumulating of earthly things...cars, and houses and vacations *and promotions*
- Adult woman – family – you need to value your adoption into God's family that is secured in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ over and above even your own family
- Senior – comfortable – you need to adore the comfort that the infilling of the holy Spirit brings to those who have trusted in Jesus and his work over and above a comfortable retirement or even a comfortable death!
- Do you really mean for us to compare and contrast Jesus and his work over and against those things? Yes. Yes I do! Get in the habit of looking at anything and everything in your life in comparison to the glory, beauty, and perfection of life in Christ through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. This is a gospel perspective. This is how we can treasure Christ in life and death.

“O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need of further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, that so I may know Thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, ‘Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.’ Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

— A. W. Tozer, “The Pursuit of God