



THRIVING – Living to bring honour to Christ

27th September 2020
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This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

“We need to invest our lives in God’s Kingdom, living with the perspective that we are ready to go and be with Jesus and yet using the time in between in His service.”

Pastor Brian Greenaway

- What if it was a choice where things would be much better for you if you chose one thing, however, it would be better for others if you chose the other. Choices like that are not easy.
- The verses we are looking at today see Paul with a dilemma. He wants one thing, but he knows he must favour the other because it serves God’s Kingdom purposes best. Pauls dilemma – life or death?

Engage:

1. Read [Philippians 1:20-26](#)
2. What is Paul’s perspective?
3. Think about this question. If you were moving to another country. If you knew something like that was going to happen, who would begin to change your perspective?
4. Is your life driven by fear?
5. If you answered ‘no’, then what is your life driven by?
6. Which kingdom are you investing in?

Framework:

7. Read [Revelations 11:15](#)
 - Now without going into complicated theological views on Eschatological sequencing, this scripture speaks very clearly about the end.
The end of the kingdom of this world.

One day this world in its present form will end.
At that point every earthly system will fall.
Every kingdom, dictatorship, democracy, empire, constitutional monarchy will end.
Every world religion will fall.
Every economic system will collapse.
Every political structure will come to an end.
And God's Kingdom, which to many has been hidden, will swallow them all up and Jesus shall reign physically and visibly from His throne in Jerusalem. Are you excited?
So, don't worry about political systems, local or national. God's Kingdom is over all those.

8. What do you invest in?

A lady once asked John Wesley that suppose he were to know that he would die at 12:00 midnight tomorrow, how would he spend the intervening time.

His reply: "Why madam, just as I intend to spend it now. I would preach this evening at Gloucester, and again at five tomorrow morning; after that I would ride to Tewkesbury, preach in the afternoon, and meet the societies in the evening. I would then go to Rev. Martin's house, who expects to entertain me, talk and pray with the family as usual, retire to my room at 10 o'clock, commend myself to my heavenly Father, lie down to rest, and wake up in Glory."

9. Do you have this type of assurance?
10. Where is your perspective?
11. Are you living with one eye on eternity?
12. Can you say this word? **Maran atha.** (It's actually two Aramaic words that mean – 'The Lord is coming' or 'Come, oh Lord'. It appears right at the end of the first letter to the Corinthians – in Aramaic. And then it appears right at the end of the book of Revelation in Greek. And it is actually a prayer.)
13. In our text Paul says that he would much prefer to die and go be with Jesus. Ask yourself that question; are you ready to go?
14. Are you tied so much to the things of this world that you don't want to go?
15. What does Paul mean when he says, 'to live is Christ'?
- There are 5 crowns in the Bible for believers:
The incorruptible, rejoicing, righteousness, life and glory

"Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

2 Timothy 4:8

- Paul is pursuing those crowns – and he knows that if he honours Jesus in this life, he will receive the crown of righteousness.
- There is no compromise in a life lived for Jesus. **You may have heard something like this before – find something worth dying for – and then live for it.** That’s how we build a life that honours Jesus.
- Our text is not so much instruction as example. Paul is our example.
Death of the Apostles – one of the proofs of Christianity from an apologetic point of view is how many believers have died as martyrs – only John died of natural causes although he was boiled in oil, tortured and exiled. They gave their lives for something they believed in.

Prayer:

Dear Father, help my perspective stay focused on your purposes for my life. In Jesus Name Amen.