

Weekend Retreat / September 2016

Munich Christian Fellowship

Starnberg Fellowship

The Letter to the Philippians

Living the Gospel

A. The letter

1. Jesus
2. Evangelism (1:27; 2:14-16; chapter 3)
3. Teamwork
 - Paul and Timothy (1a)
 - the Philippian church (1b)
 - that's how the church began (Acts 16:11-15)
 - God (2)

B. The readers

1. they're special (1b)
2. they have two addresses (1b)

C. The writer

1. a slave/servant (1a)
2. a prisoner (1:13)

D. Us

E. Three things to pray for

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Living the Gospel

Session One: Jesus our Life

Philippians 1:3-26

A question about our lives
An observation about this passage

Looking at Paul's example

A. Paul loves (3-11)
and he's not afraid of telling them v7-8

Three signs of Paul's love

1. thankfulness (3)

Why? v5

Paul is not only thankful:

2. encouragement (6)

How did these young Christians feel?

This is a verse about God

A question for us

3. prayer (3-4)

Paul tells them *that* he's praying for them (3-4)

Paul tells them *what* he's praying for them (9-11)

love (9)

clarity (10)

beauty (10-11)

B. Paul loves (12-18)

The most important thing to Paul (12)

Everyone's talking about him (13-14)

Of course some people are preaching the good news for bad reasons
v15-17

But for Paul only one thing matters (18a)

C. Paul loves (18-26)

Key verse: v21

Paul's motto: For me, to live is Christ

For me, to die is gain

Paul explains his motto (22-24)

v23

v22

Both possibilities are attractive to him

v24

v23

Paul doesn't think he's going to die yet (25-26)

But look at Paul's greatest desire (18-20)

But *why* did God the Father bring Jesus up the four steps?

C. Examples for (12-18)

What do verses 12 and 13 mean?

Three questions about Christians in the world

1. What should Christians be like? (14-15a)

2. Where should Christians be? (15b)

3. What does that mean in practice? (16a)

and look what this will mean for Paul (16b-18)

D. Examples for (19-30)

Timothy (19-24) and Epaphroditus (25-30)

Three things they have in common

1. they were examples

Timothy (22)

Epaphroditus (25-27)

2. they lived the Jesus lifestyle

Timothy (20-21)

Epaphroditus (29-30)

3. they understood the secret of the Jesus lifestyle

Living for the Gospel

Session Three: Jesus our Goal

Philippians 3:1-21

What do most people think is the central message of the Christian faith?

We have a massive responsibility to guard the gospel
There are people preaching another message...

A. Two (1-4)

The first group (2)

The second group (3)

B. Two (4-11)

The first picture of Paul (4-6)

But then something happened...
It changed everything (7-8)

The second picture of Paul

loss (7,8a)
garbage (8b)

Three things which are true of every Christian

1. A Christian knows Jesus (8a)

and the relationship needs to grow! (10-11)

2. A Christian gains Jesus (8-9)

this is about righteousness

How do we get righteousness?

The wrong answer (9a)

Isaiah 64:6

The right answer (9b)

3. A Christian obeys Jesus (8)

C. Two (12-17)

The wrong attitude (13)

The right attitude

v12

v13

v14

Paul pleads with the Christians in Philippi (15-16)

D. Two (18-21)

Paul introduces the topic again (17)

The first group (18-19)

their message (20)

their home (19b)

their hope (19)

The second group (20-21)

our message (20)

our home (20)

our hope (21)

Living for the Gospel

Session Four: Jesus our Joy

Philippians 4:1-23

What Paul is doing in chapter 4
the importance of verse 1

Paul tackles three problems in church life and tells us the solutions

A. Disunity (2-3)

the problem in the church in Philippi

it's common enough

the solution (2)

B. Worry (4-9)

verse 6

it's common enough

four solutions

1. Joy (4)

2. Obedience (5)

3. Prayer (6)

4. Meditation (8)

and the result is wonderful
verse 7

verse 9

C. Money (10-20)

this is worry about a specific area

it's common enough

three solutions

1. Generosity (10,14-16)

2. Contentment (11-13)

3. Faith (17-20)

Conclusion

Where Christians are
verses 21b-22

verse 21a

The truth about Jesus
verse 23

what grace is
the four love sentences

put verse 5 and verse 23 together

Finally...

1. Which bit of this letter has the Holy Spirit used most in your life?
2. What are the next steps you need to take with the Spirit's help?
3. What do you want to pray for yourself and for your church family?