

# THE REBEL'S "GUIDE to JOY"

**Read Philippians 1:19-30 for an overview of the passage.**

**Context:**

This week we see Paul's attention move from his present circumstances and how they are working for the good of the Gospel to the future. Facing the real possibility of his own death, Paul takes the opportunity to encourage the faithful and find joy in both life and death. Even as he faces his own mortality we can see the heart of Paul eager to see the continued growth of his brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Life and Death**

Read Phil. 1:19-26. (1 Cor 15:50-57 may be helpful)

What does Paul mean by deliverance? Support your answer within the entire context of the passage.

In personal trial what does deliverance look like for you?

In what areas of your life do you feel shame?

What does "to live *is* Christ" mean?

Does it trouble you that Paul can't decide whether he would rather live or die?

How is death gain?

In what ways do you feel disconnected from the statement that death is gain?

What is Paul's reason for continuing to live?

What do you live for? What gets you excited in the morning and motivates you?

**Life worthy of the Gospel**

Read Phil. 1:27-30.

Do you feel like your life is a manner of life worthy of the Gospel?

What unifies you with your friends?

How do you feel supported by the community in your faith?

How do you feel distant or isolated in your faith?

How can we as a community be of one mind and strive together for the faith?

How are you frightened by opponents of Jesus?

How are you engaged in the same conflict as Paul?

Do you generally see suffering for Christ as a burden or a gift? Explain your answer.

**Reflection and Prayer**

*Take time this week to pray for the following:*

For those facing death that they would find strength in Jesus

Thankfulness that Jesus faced death and took away its sting

That we may understand what it means that to live is Christ

For the sanctification of our brothers and sisters

For a community to strive side by side with

For Joy in the face of death and in life that comes from Jesus