



Holy Trinity
Combe Down



St Andrew's
Community Church

Sermon Series: Joy in Jesus
Homegroup Material Sunday 14th January
Week 2 Real Living for Jesus: Philippians 1:12–30

1. Paul's 'life motto' (1:21) seems to produce in him deep and constant joy, resilience in the face of affliction, courage in the face of persecution, anticipation at the thought of death. If these are things you need or want more in your life, take time to pray now as you read God's Word that the Holy Spirit will work in you to produce this fruit.
2. How does Paul's overriding purpose in life shape his view of his own (pretty bad) circumstances?
3. To what extent should Paul's purpose (the advance of the Gospel), be our purpose?
4. If Paul's purpose is not *completely* the same as ours (we aren't all apostles to the Gentiles for example), how about his motivation? Re-read vv.20–22. Consider together how having that same motivation in your life would shape your big and small decisions.
5. In v.27 Paul talks to the church and calls them 'citizens of heaven'. What does this mean? What might it look like to live in a manner 'worthy of the gospel'?
6. One element of 'living a life worthy of the gospel' is standing firm in the one Spirit, striving together for the faith of the gospel (v.27). How have you seen this lived out in practice (in your own life or examples from around the world)?
7. Does John 13:35 help us begin to understand Phil.1:28? How do we balance unity and truth in practice?
8. V.29 is consistent with much of the NT which assumes Christians will suffer (usually simply for being followers of Jesus). How has this been your experience?

Prayer – you might like to pray for suffering Christians around the world. Try to take Paul's priorities as an impetus for your prayers...

Tim Lewis