

16. A question people often ask is why God permits suffering and we can give various answers to the question but what does verse 29 tell us about some suffering and why it happens?

## Pray

Pray again for those under persecution for their faith. As the Philippians prayed for Paul ask that God would deliver them but that whatever the future holds he would give them courage to live a life worthy of the gospel.

Pray for wisdom to know how we can labour fruitfully for God in our lives and for determination to do so.

Pray for those you know who are enduring suffering. We know there are all sorts of reasons for this. Pray for those who are not believers that they would come to see that, whatever this life offers, to be with Christ is far better. Pray for believers to continue steadfast in faith.

Give thanks for the good things that we enjoy from God's hands and pray that our Harvest service in early October would be a cause for rejoicing. Pray for Bishop Julian who will be speaking, for the children receiving Bibles, and that lots of children and families from school would join us.

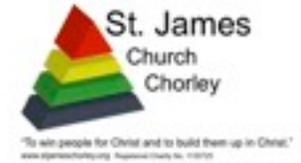
*David Phillips,  
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# Philippians

## Study 3 :

### Honouring Christ

#### Philippians 1.18b-30



## Dying Well

### Read Philippians 1.18b-21

1. What indicators are there here that Paul was mindful that his imprisonment and trial might result in his death?
2. Many will say they are not afraid of death, but don't like the idea of dying. What do they mean by that and is it a view you share?
3. Assuming what Paul writes in verse 20 is about both living and dying well what does he mean by dying "not .. ashamed", "with full courage" and "honoured in my body"?
4. Christian ethics is based on Scripture and the conviction that life is made by God and we should not kill, except as permitted by Him. An alternative view is that since life is all there is we should preserve it at all costs. But today the prevailing view seems to be "it is my life and I can do what I like". How do these three views create different attitudes to euthanasia and suicide, for example?

5. Which attitudes do you think are most likely to be portrayed in modern films or television programmes?

6. Though Paul knew he might die soon what do you think the Philippians were praying (v19) and how did Paul view that?

## **Fruitful Labour**

### **Read 1.21-26**

7. In these verses Paul writes as if he has a choice between life and death. What do you think he means here and how do you think what he says was reflected in his own prayers?

8. In question 3 we looked at dying well but what do you verse 20, which we looked at, means when it comes to living well?

9. What did Paul mean by fruitful labour in verse 22 and what particular things do we see in verses 24, 25 and 26?

10. What would you consider to be fruitful labour in your own life?

## **Lives worthy of the gospel**

### **Read 1.27-30**

*We have looked at living and dying well in verse 20, and fruitful labour in verse 22. Now Paul writes about a manner of life worthy of the gospel.*

11. The gospel is that we are saved by faith in Christ not any works we do (cf Phil 3.9) but it should change our lives and affect what we do. What then is a manner of life worthy of the gospel of Christ?

12. How can such a life commend the gospel to others?

13. In 1.27-30 why is Christian unity part of a such a manner of life and what is the unity that Paul is describing here?

14. How might such unity be different from, say, two denominations deciding to combine?

15. We don't know the details of the suffering of the Philippians which Paul describes in verse 29. But Read Acts 9.16. What had God said to Ananias about Paul's suffering?