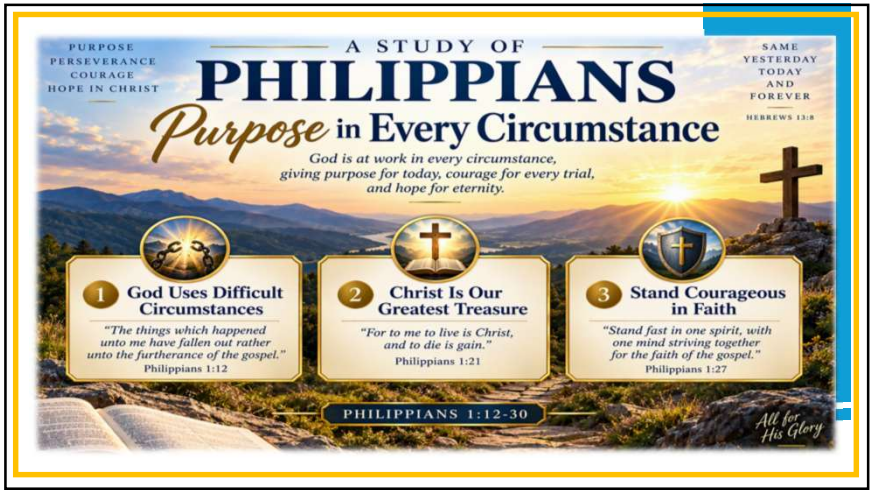


1

Philippians 1 KJV

12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; 13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; 14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. 15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: 16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: 17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

2

Philippians 1 KJV

18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. 19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

3

Philippians 1 KJV

23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; 26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again. 27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

4

Philippians 1 KJV

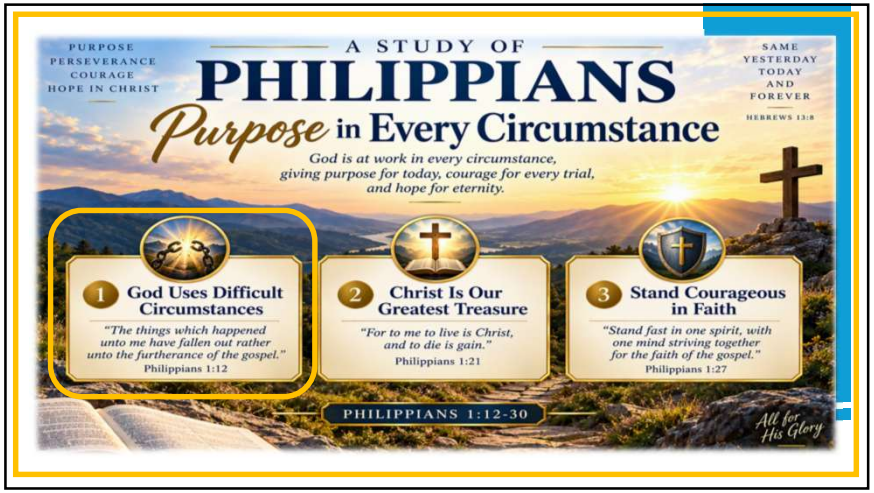
28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. 29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; 30 Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

5

Theme

Through every challenge, Jesus remains our greatest treasure and our source of courage and hope.

6



7

God Uses Difficult Circumstances

- Paul's imprisonment advanced the gospel.

12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; (Philippians 1:12 KJV)

- God works through trials.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28 KJV)

8

God Uses Difficult Circumstances

- Suffering can strengthen faith.

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (James 1:2-4 KJV)

9

God Uses Difficult Circumstances

- Our testimony can encourage others.

3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4 KJV)

10

God Uses Difficult Circumstances

- God never wastes our struggles.

20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. (Genesis 50:20 KJV)

11

Discussion Questions

- How has God used a hardship in your life?
- What lessons have challenges taught you?
- How can difficulties become opportunities for ministry?

12

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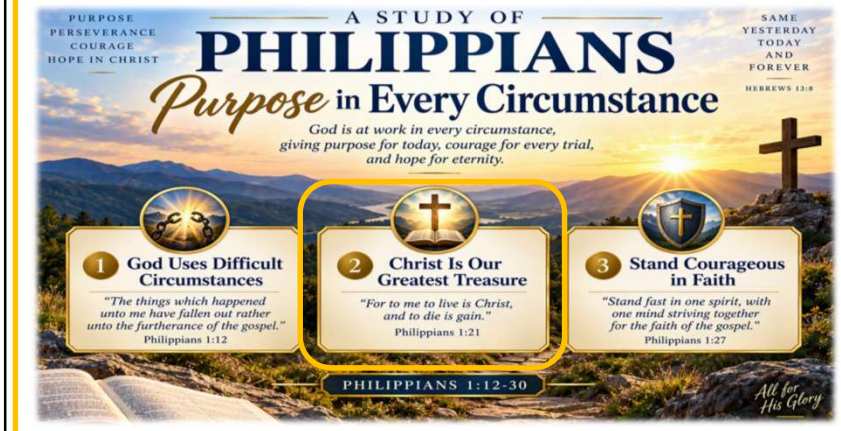


14

Christ Is Our Greatest Treasure

- Living gives opportunities to serve Jesus.

21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Philippians 1:21 KJV)

- Death brings believers into His presence.

23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: (Philippians 1:23 KJV)

15

Christ Is Our Greatest Treasure

- Jesus gives purpose each day.

20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20 KJV)

- He is more valuable than earthly success.

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33 KJV)

16

Christ Is Our Greatest Treasure

- Jesus is our eternal hope.

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: (Colossians 1:27 KJV)

17

Security, Identity, Purpose, Comfort, or Hope Instead of Jesus

- Independence
  - "As long as I can do everything myself, I'll be okay."
  - Finding identity primarily in self-sufficiency.
  - Feeling life's value decreases as assistance becomes necessary.
- Challenge: Jesus invites us to find our worth in being God's children, not in our abilities.

18

Security, Identity, Purpose, Comfort, or Hope Instead of Jesus

- Health & Physical Ability
  - Believing good health is the key to happiness.
  - Becoming consumed by physical limitations or medical concerns.
  - Measuring life's success primarily by physical wellness.
- Challenge: While health is a blessing, Jesus offers hope that transcends physical circumstances.

19

Security, Identity, Purpose, Comfort, or Hope Instead of Jesus

- Family
  - Expecting children or grandchildren to meet every emotional need.
  - Looking to family relationships as the ultimate source of happiness.
  - Feeling life's purpose is lost when family is absent or distant.
- Challenge: Family is a gift from God, but only Jesus can fully satisfy the deepest needs of the heart.

20

Security, Identity, Purpose, Comfort, or Hope Instead of Jesus

- Comfort & Security
  - Prioritizing personal comfort above spiritual growth.
  - Avoiding difficult situations, changes, or sacrifices.
  - Finding peace solely in predictable routines.
- Challenge: Jesus often calls His followers to trust Him even in uncertainty.

21

Security, Identity, Purpose, Comfort, or Hope Instead of Jesus

- Past Accomplishments
  - Defining identity by former careers, achievements, or positions.
  - Living primarily in memories of "better days.“
  - Struggling to find purpose in the present.
- Challenge: Our greatest identity is found in Jesus, not in what we once accomplished.

22

Security, Identity, Purpose, Comfort, or Hope Instead of Jesus

- Possessions
  - Becoming overly attached to treasured belongings.
  - Finding security in financial resources.
  - Measuring success by accumulated assets.
- Challenge: Earthly possessions are temporary; heavenly treasures are eternal.

23

Security, Identity, Purpose, Comfort, or Hope Instead of Jesus

- Relationships & Popularity
  - Needing approval from others.
  - Measuring worth by how often visitors come.
  - Feeling valuable only when others recognize or include me.
- Challege: God's love & acceptance never fluctuate.

24

Security, Identity, Purpose, Comfort, or Hope Instead of Jesus

- Entertainment & Distractions
  - Using television, games, social activities, or technology to avoid deeper spiritual needs.
  - Filling time without nurturing the soul.
- Challenge: Recreation is healthy, but it cannot replace a relationship with Jesus.

25

Security, Identity, Purpose, Comfort, or Hope Instead of Jesus

- The Desire to Stay in Control
  - Resisting help or change.
  - Becoming anxious when circumstances cannot be managed.
  - Trusting personal plans more than God's purposes.
- Challenge: Faith involves surrendering control to God's care.

26

Security, Identity, Purpose, Comfort, or Hope Instead of Jesus

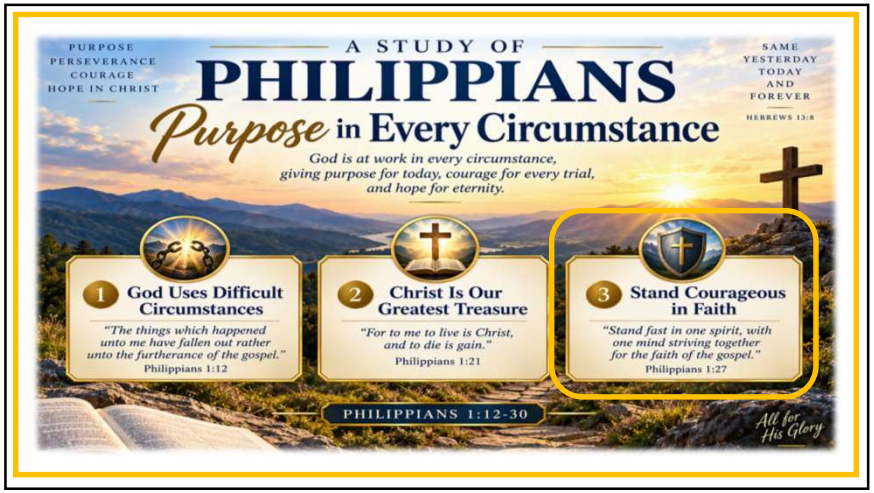
- Personal Comfort with Religion Instead of Jesus
  - Trusting church attendance, past service, or religious knowledge.
  - Assuming spiritual activities automatically mean spiritual growth.
- Challenge: Christianity is ultimately about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

27

Discussion Questions

- What gives purpose to your days now?
- How does heaven influence your outlook?
- What does "to live is Christ" mean to you?

28



29

Stand Courageous in Faith

- God calls us to stand firm.

27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; (Philippians 1:27 KJV)

30

Stand Courageous in Faith

- Courage comes from trusting God.

9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. (Joshua 1:9 KJV)

31

Stand Courageous in Faith

- God's presence removes fear.

10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. (Isaiah 41:10 KJV)

32

Stand Courageous in Faith

- Faith grows through challenges.

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (1 Peter 1:7 KJV)

33

Stand Courageous in Faith

- Christians can encourage one another.

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25 KJV)

34

Discussion Questions

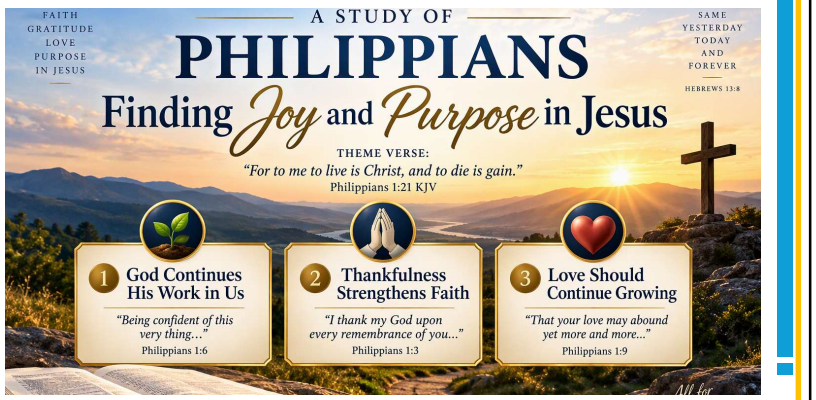
- What fears are common among seniors?
- How does faith help overcome fear?
- How can believers encourage courage in others?

35

Practical Applications

- Trust that God can work through every challenge.
- Look each day for God's purpose & direction in your life.
- Keep Jesus at the center of your thoughts, choices & actions.
- Focus on what matters most for eternity rather than temporary concerns.
- Replace fear & worry with faith in God's promises & presence.
- Encourage others with words of hope, faith & courage.

36



37

Prayer Requests

- Sheila – Lord will give her strength to share her testimony & He will bless Sergio with healing of his health issues.
- John – Thanks to the Lord for all the His blessings on her recent cruise & the opportunities He gave to share the Gospel.
- Lois – Lord will bring peace to her son Jimmy & will bless her with new dentures.
- Anna – Lord will lavish His blessings upon her son in his new job & her daughter after cancer surgery & her homeless friends who are experiencing medical & financial issues.
- Laura – Lord will bring peace to those who are struggling with change.
- Silvia – Lord will heal her son, Steve & surround him with grace
- Terry – Lord will lavish His blessings upon her life & all the local homeless.
- Sergio – Lord will bless him with good physical & mental health.
- Dorothy – Praises that her brother Charles' cancer is treatable.
- Steve – Lord will bless him with the best medical care.
- Ed – Lord will relieve his wife's chronic trigeminal pain.

38