

Philippians 1

Ready for the Day of Christ

The “day of Christ” provides important perspective and meaning for life, leading to hope and joy for those who rightly understand it (and accept it). In today’s passage we see knowledge of the day of Christ leads to:

1. Confidence to keep going (vv1-8)

- v6 – the gospel (v5, 7) is the root of Paul’s thankfulness (v3) and joy (v4), the “good news” that directs him to the “day of Christ” (v6)
- the firm conviction that God will finish the work he has begun should keep us motivated to press on

2. A reminder to remain faithful (vv9-11)

- v10 – being ready for the day of Christ means that we should (in the present) seek to grow in love, knowledge, discernment (we strive to be “pure and blameless”)
- we can’t ready ourselves for the day of Christ – we need “righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ” (v11), which will bear fruit in our lives (“you are all partakers with me of grace” – v7)
- 1 John 2:28-29 “And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink back from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.”
- We pray in dependence upon God, who began the work in us we desire to see completed

3. Meaning and purpose that transcends circumstances (vv12-30)

- Paul’s circumstances were tough: he was in prison (vv13-14), had rivals (v17) – yet had joy (v18)
- Life (even with suffering) or death both gave opportunities to honor Christ (vv19-26)
- Paul did not know the future – as we don’t know the future, his words are wisdom for how to live in the present: (v27) “let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel”

Questions for reflection:

1. If you think about the “day of Christ” (when “he comes again to judge the living and the dead”), what concerns do you have? Are you ready for it? Do you understand it?
2. The gospel, for Paul, is the message that Christ died for our sins and was raised on the 3rd day (bringing life to all who hope in him) [see 1 Corinthians 15:1-5]. How does the gospel prepare us for the day of Christ, and how does the day of Christ fit into the gospel message (given Phil 1:6)?
3. Our manner of life is to be “worthy of the gospel” (v27), and Paul prays for the Philippians that they would be pure and blameless for the day of Christ (v10). What remains in your life that is impure? What wrong do you continue to do?
4. Paul prays for an increase in love in the Philippians (v9), with knowledge and discernment – how can you be praying for yourself to specifically bring growth in your life? How can you be praying for Emmanuel?
5. Paul wanted to honor Christ in his body (v20). What will it look like for you to honor Christ at work? In your relationships? With your mind?