

PHILIPPIANS

THE SECRET TO A GOOD LIFE

Philippians – Christ at the Centre (Week 1)

Preacher: **Daniel Erasmus**

Worship Song Suggestion:

Centre - Passion – Kari Jobe

Check-In:

1. When you hear the phrase “*the good life*,” what immediately comes to mind?
2. What is something people typically chase in order to find happiness, security, or fulfilment?
3. Have you ever experienced joy or peace during a difficult season? What made that possible?

Key Scriptures:

- Acts 16:11-40
- Philippians 1:3-6
- Philippians 1:12-14
- Philippians 1:19-21
- Philippians 1:27-29
- Romans 8:28

Sermon Summary:

We live in a world that constantly offers different versions of the “good life” – success, comfort, freedom, relationships, family, health, or financial security. While these things can be good gifts, they were never meant to take the place only Jesus should occupy.

The book of Philippians challenges our understanding of the good life. Paul writes this deeply joyful letter from prison, while facing uncertainty, suffering, and opposition. Yet instead of focusing on his circumstances, he focuses on Christ.

The big idea of Philippians 1 is this: The good life is not found when life finally works out; the good life is found when Jesus becomes our life.

When Jesus is at the centre:

1. **We can trust that God is still working**

Paul reminds the Philippians that God finishes what He starts. Even when we feel stuck, unfinished, or discouraged, God is still at work in us. Philippians 1:6 gives us confidence that our story is not over.

2. **We can see our circumstances through the gospel**

Paul viewed his imprisonment not simply as an obstacle but as an opportunity for the gospel. Instead of asking, “Why is this happening?” he asked, “How can God be glorified through this?”

3. **We can say, “To live is Christ”**

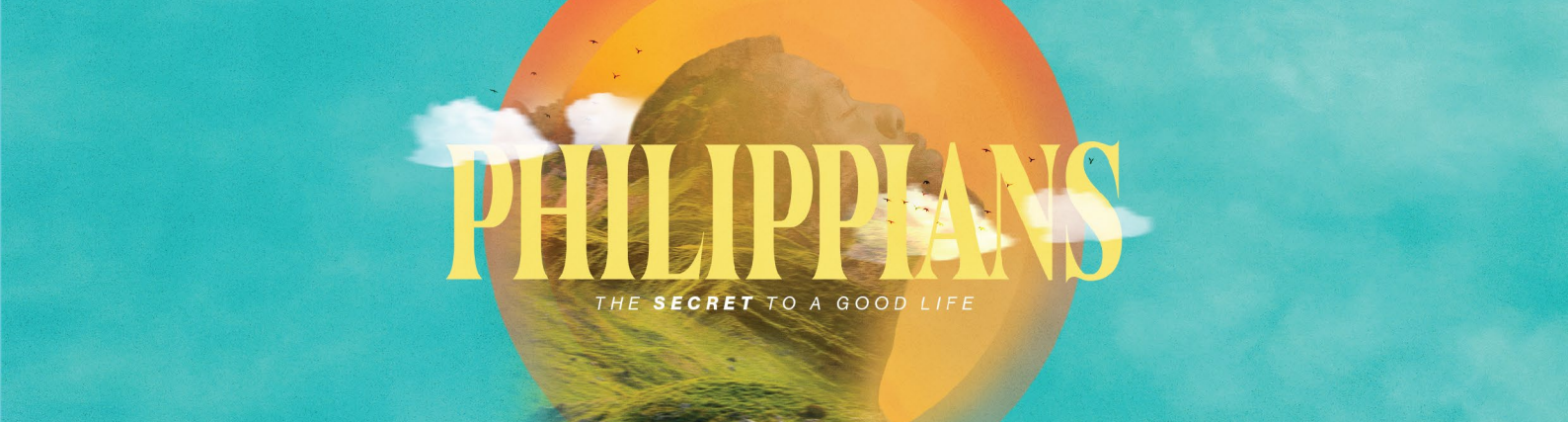
Paul’s famous declaration in Philippians 1:21 reveals his deepest value: Jesus was the centre of everything. Whatever occupies the blank in the statement, “For me, to live is _____,” will shape our lives. Only Jesus is strong enough to hold the centre.

4. **We can live worthy of the gospel**

A Christ-centred life responds to the grace of Jesus with obedience, courage, unity, and faithful witness. We live differently because of what Christ has done for us.

Key Takeaway

The good life is not God giving us everything we want. The good life is Christ becoming our life.



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Discussion Questions:

“Fresh oil is not found in looking busy for God, but in being with God.” To walk in “immeasurably more,” we don’t need better plans, more effort or more activity. **We need the Holy Spirit.**

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the four truths from Philippians 1 stood out most to you and why?
2. Paul says, “For me, to live is Christ.” If we're honest, what are some things that often compete with Jesus for the centre of our lives?
3. How does knowing that God is still working – even in unfinished situations – encourage you in your current season?
4. Is there a difficult circumstance in your life that God may be inviting you to view through the lens of the gospel rather than through fear or frustration?

Prayer Pointers:

- Thank Jesus for being the true source of the good life.
- Ask God to reveal anything that has taken His place at the centre of your life.
- Pray for greater trust in God's ongoing work, especially in areas that feel unfinished.
- Ask God for the ability to see difficult circumstances as opportunities for Him to work.
- Pray for courage to live worthy of the gospel in your home, workplace, school, and relationships.
- Pray together: **“Jesus, be the centre of my life. For me, to live is Christ.”**

Weekly Challenge:

Spend a few minutes each day reflecting on this question:

“For me, to live is _____.”

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything competing with Jesus for the centre of your heart, and surrender it to Him.