

**Lesson 3: To Live is Christ...** 

## In Any and Every Circumstance? A Review Of Our Previous Weeks

Confined to a place

Unable to work in the same way

Missing friends

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:11-13

### In Any and Every Circumstance?

Written from prison, Philippians has been called "The Epistle of Joy".

The word "joy" appears 5 times in the ESV. (1:4, 1:25, 2:2, 2:29, 4:1)

The word "rejoice" appears 9 times in the ESV. (1:18, 1:18, 2:17, 2:18, 2:28, 3:1, 4:4, 4:4, 4:10)

# What does persecution do?

Persecution advances the Gospel (1:12-13)

Persecution requires obedience (1:12-13)

Persecution grows the church (1:14-17)



Acts 16
Paul in Philippi
(AD 49)

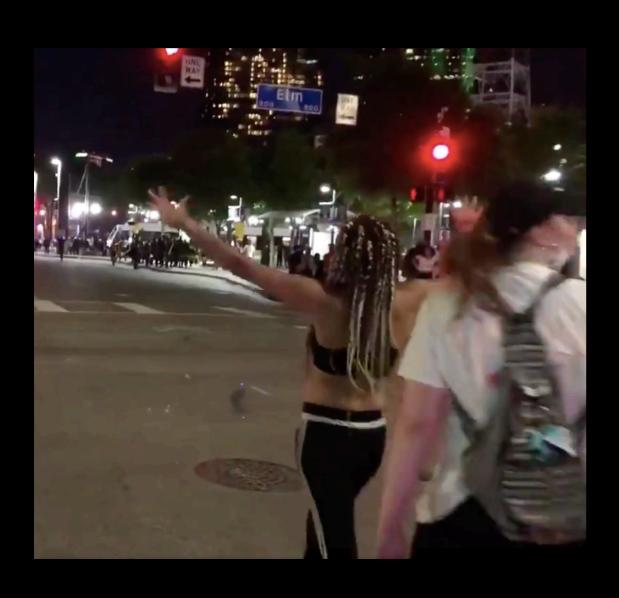
Philippians
Paul in prison in Rome
(AD 62)

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#### The Via Egnatia

Covers over 500 miles
Constructed 2nd Century BC
Used by Paul in 1st Century AD

## **Last Night**





#### Philippians 1:18-30

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, 20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

#### Philippians 1:18-30

21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. 24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

#### Philippians 1:18-30

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

# For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain ἐμοὶ γὰρ τὸ ζῆν Χριστὸς καὶ τὸ ἀποθανεῖν κέρδος

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and to die is gain

καὶ τὸ ἀποθανεῖν κέρδος

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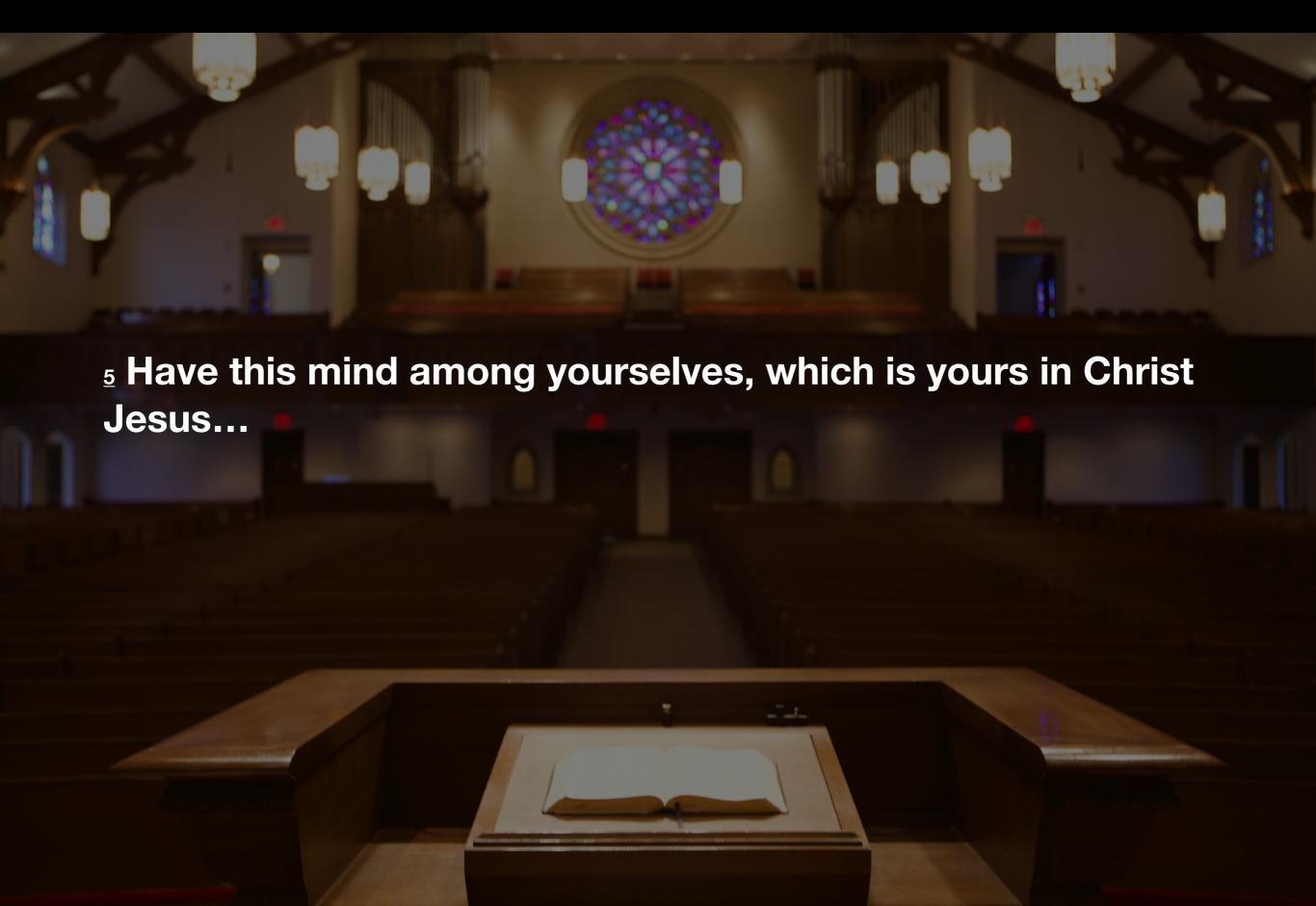
#### And to you?

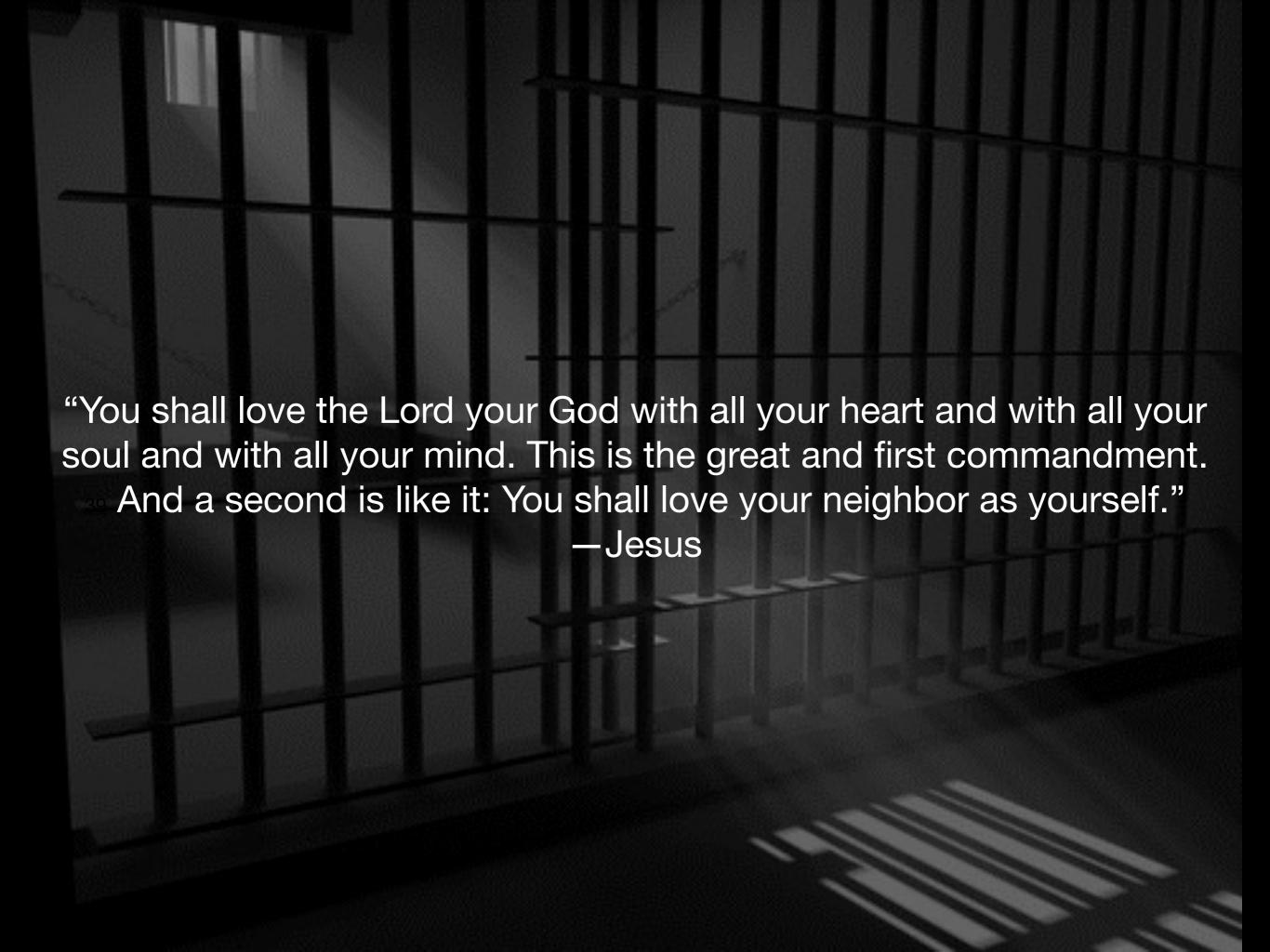
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### The Mind of Christ - Philippians 2:5





- 1. What is "the snag" that prevents you from thinking about life on earth or being with Jesus after death?
  - 2. What is fruitful labor for you as a Christian today in light of the protests, Covid, and your regular life in work and relationships?
  - 3. What are the similarities and differences between people who have "nothing to lose" on earth and "everything to gain" by uniting with Jesus in death?
    - 4. How often do you think about heaven? How would meditating on heaven change your day to day life in Christ on earth?
  - 5. Consider this tweet from famous cognitive psychologist Stephen Pinker in his frustration over Christians wanting to reopen society during Covid19: "Belief in an afterlife is a malignant delusion, since it devalues actual lives and discourages action that would make them longer, safer, and happier..." Comment in light of vv. 18-30

