



MAXIMIZE THE MESSAGE

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 1 – HEADING HOME JULY 10 & 11, 2010

IN A NUTSHELL

We are heading home! We can do this the easy way or the hard way. Actually living the Christian life is not always easy. Paul was imprisoned in Rome. In spite of that he writes his happiest letter, overflowing with joy and gratitude to the Christ followers in Philippi, for their genuine care towards him and their continued faithfulness to God. He then pours into their soul fundamental truths for the successful, Christian navigation of this journey called life. This world is not our home (I Peter 2:11, Heb. 13:14). Philippians is a GPS for the Christian's attitude as we journey home.

TALK IT OUT

1. On this journey, are we truly ready to serve God at all cost? One of our greatest enemies is self-preservation. Our sin nature thinks "What have you done for me lately?" or "Is that going to hurt/benefit me in any way?" How wonderful to know that Jesus denied Himself, endured the pain, and went straight to the cross for us. Examine some of the obstacles Paul mentions in Phil. 1, how did he view and overcome them? How did the Christians in Philippi serve God at all Costs?
2. Are you willing to deny yourself and take up the cross for a stranger, family member or co-laborer today? Our cross may be to have a good attitude, be faithful, committed, forgiving, being holy even as Christ is holy. Sounds easy theoretically, but in real time, in the midst of a disagreement, when called on to volunteer, do missions, give, speak a word of encouragement or correction, do we take up the cross and follow Him? Discuss something that happened to you recently that was an opportunity to take up the cross?
3. Am I purposefully doing what it takes to grow in Christ on this journey? Knowledge is power, Philippians 1:10. In spite of being in prison, how does Paul stay focus on what really matters? How can we do that today?

DRAW IT OUT

As Christ followers we are already victorious in Jesus. It is possible to live victoriously in difficult situations as Paul did and so many others did then and do now. To do so we must understand that life is a journey and it will not always be hunky-dory, but God began a good work in us and He does not quit (Philippians 1:6). We walk by faith and not by what we see with our natural eyes (2 Corinthians 5:7), the Lord will perfect that which concerns us (Psalm 138:8). Nothing goes wasted with God, everything works together for good to them that love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). Christ died on the cross to give us power to take up our cross by loving Him and serving others on this road-trip, as we follow his example home (Mark 8:34).

LIVE IT OUT

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. Be generous and people will see your God in you. You can give online at www.gochristfellowship.com If you would like to give to missions, you can click on online giving, then outreach, then mission trips and you can help support the trip and the people sacrificing to serve. When you give in this way, your heart will follow their journey for Christ as you make an investment into the mission.

On July 24-25 there will be another Beach Baptism for those of you who would like to get baptized. Come out and be a witness to this incredible day of blessing!



Visit www.gochristfellowship.com (key word: iMAX) to sign-up as a new iMAX Group so we can resource you with additional tools that will help you get the most of your iMAX experience!"