



Pastor Derrick Shields “Philippians 1: Live As If God Is In Control” 8/8/2021

Key Verses:

- Philippians 1

Key Thoughts:

- Philippians was written to a body of believers to teach them how to live together in God's presence in difficult times. 2 Timothy 3:12 tells us that we will always face times of trial and testing. That's something we're dealing with that as a church right now.
- Acts 16 gives us the origins of the Philippian church. Philippi was a Roman colony full of retired soldiers with allegiance to the Roman government.
- The letter to the Philippians starts 10 years after the account in Acts 16.
- In the introduction to the letter, it's clear that Paul is writing to a church, so we should view what's said here not so much for us as individuals, but for us as a church.
- The letter is answering this question: how do we live during troubled times?

Keys to Living Through Tough Times:

1. Giving thanks and praying for others (v.9-11)
 - Paul was writing this message from jail, and he starts out by expressing gratitude to God for them and we can learn the importance from that example.
2. Keeping Christ and the Gospel the main priority (v.12-19)
 - Despite his conditions, Jesus is still his main focus. Our conditions hold little significance when we see Jesus as the most important thing.
 - If God is in control, that means we don't have to be.
3. Trusting Jesus for the outcome regardless of your circumstances (v.19-26)
 - Paul views his life as one to be spent in the service of others.
4. Going through suffering together as one (v.27-30)
 - Paul is urging us to go through our suffering together, and when we do this, it makes us one, a shining light on a hill. When the world looks to us, they should find direction in our oneness.

Discussion Questions:

- Who is God prompting you to pray for? When will you?
- How much is your life affected by your circumstances? Do you have hope for a good outcome?
- Who are you sharing your suffering with? Who burdens are you helping to carry?