



## My Life Purpose

Mike Shields | 8/6/2023 | *Philippians 1:12-21*

### Getting Started

1. Consider the context of our passage (Philippians 1:12-21). Paul expresses his joy in the form of bookends in 1:3-5 and 2:1-2. How does the second passage build on the first? Does this help develop our understanding of rejoicing in times of trial?
2. Between the two bookends, Paul again mentions joy (1:18). What were the things that gave him joy? In 1:19 Paul is counting on support from two sources. What are they?
3. In 1:21 Paul indicates that his circumstances appear to him as win/win. If he is released from prison and lives, he wins, if he dies, he wins. If released from prison and lives, what does he foresee as his guiding purpose?
4. In Acts 13:22 Paul mentions that David was a man after God's own heart, who would do God's will. How did David's heart for God and desire to do God's will manifest itself in David's life? (Acts 13:36)

### Digging Deeper

5. The letter to the Philippians provides us a window into Paul's heart and soul. What can you see going on inside Paul?
6. How would you feel if a pastor or missionary whom you knew personally and loved deeply were imprisoned in a distant city where the necessities of life were not provided for? What might those circumstances prompt you to do?
7. How do you think it was possible for Paul to feel such a positive emotion in the face of such trying circumstances? (1:4; 1:18; 2:2; 3:1; 4:1,2; Colossians 1:24)

8. Both Paul in Philippians and David in Acts are examples to us of two men who served God by serving sharing the gospel with others. Describe some of the difficulties that this presented for both.

### **Application**

9. For Paul his satisfaction in life and impending death was the Lord Jesus Christ. How do you approach the difficulties of your life and find hope in your Lord, Jesus Christ? What difference would it make in your daily life if you were known by others to be one who rejoices in Christ, no matter what your circumstances?
10. Paul was willing to lay aside his personal ambition and the pleasure of eternal life to continue living and working in ministry. What are you willing to lay aside to help foster the spiritual growth of others?
11. How can Paul's ability to experience positive emotions of true joy during negative circumstances help us to do the same? How does the Holy Spirit help us?