

“Christ Our Life”

Philippians 1:21

Sunday, September 4, 2016

Introduction: What difference does Jesus make in your everyday life? Forget all the “religious correct” answers and be 100% honest with yourself. What difference does Jesus really make in your Monday through Friday life?

I asked that question to some people last week and here are some of the answers I received. To get honest answers they were given to me anonymously. (To hear the answers listen to the sermon on the church web page www.fbp.org).

The apostle Paul answered that question in twelve words in his letter to the Philippians.

Text: Philippians 1:21

- To Paul Jesus was more than an example; Jesus was his very life.
- When you read Paul’s letter to the Philippians and read Paul’s experience at Philippi in Acts 16, it is obvious that Jesus made a difference in Paul’s life whatever he faced.

1. Jesus makes a difference in your life in your “prisons.”

- The apostle Paul established the church at Philippi on his 2nd missionary journey about A.D. 51 (Acts 16).
- In Philippi, Paul and Silas were put in prison and Jesus made a difference to them. The Bible tells us that at midnight they were praying and singing hymns to God (Acts 16:25).
- Ten years later Paul was in prison in Rome. While in his Roman prison, Paul wrote a letter to the church in Philippi. We know the letter and the book of Philippians. In the letter, the word “joy” or “rejoice” occurs twelve times.

Jesus made a difference in Paul's life in the Roman prison just like he did in the Philippian prison.

Illustration: There are "Prisons" in life that do not have bars. I mention two. There are "physical prisons" and there are "emotional prisons."

Application: The difference Jesus makes when you are in a "prison" whatever it is nothing else can make.

2. Jesus makes a difference in your life in your purpose.

- Paul's purpose in life was to glorify God (Philippians 1:20b).
- Whether by life or death (1:20b).

Illustration: My 2016 goal is that Christ grow in my until—

1. All my thoughts are inspired by God.
2. All my emotions are controlled by God.
3. All my will is instigated by God.

Application: Your life should have a purpose that glorifies God.

3. Jesus makes a difference in your life in your perspective.

- Paul's perspective was the return of Christ.
- We see it in five times in his letter (1:6, 10; 2:16; 3:20; 4:5).

Illustration: This is how Paul could have joy regardless of his circumstances. His perspective was right.

Application: When your perspective on life and in life is the return of the Lord you will have joy in your life.

Conclusion: I began my sermon today asking what difference Jesus makes in your daily life. Let me end the sermon with a better question. What difference do you want Jesus to make in your life? Hopefully, your answer is to live in such a way that your life glorifies God.