

Bible Study for Sept 14-20

You are encouraged to take some time to reflect on the scripture and the questions provided either individually, or with members of your household.

Read: Philippians 1:21-30

Notes: At this point in the lectionary, we move from the book of Romans to the book of Philippians. Philippi was a city located in northern Greece and the congregation there was one of Paul's favorites. He had founded the church based on a vision he had of a man beckoning him to come over and help (Acts 16:9), and his time there had been one of both joys and trials. This letter is believed to have been written 12 or 13 years later while Paul is in prison in Rome. In spite of this, Paul still writes a letter containing thanksgiving, as well as his personal situation, and has concerns regarding disunity and potential dangers from false teachers. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

Questions to Ponder:

When you are feeling down, what does it take to get you feeling "on top of it" again?

How does Paul decide if an event (like his being in jail) is good or bad? How might his example encourage others?

What is Paul struggling with in verses 21-24? What is his conclusion? Do you agree with his reasoning?

"For me to live is _____." Given your priorities and schedule this week, how would you honestly fill in the blank? What would change if you inserted "Christ" into the blank? Would it affect your daily life or any hardships you're facing?

Disunity of the church was one of Paul's concerns. Which verses from 27-30 might help you address any issues of disunity; either in the church or in society?