

**Sermon Series: LIFE IN HIS NAME**

**Sermon Title: A FOCUSED MIND**

**Text: Philippians 1:12-26**

**Discussion Questions:**

- What are some situations in life that make it hard for people to find joy?
- How do you normally respond when something bad happens to you? Do you tend to get upset, complain, blame others, and dwell on the negative or do you try to stay positive and look for the good? Do you tend to try and find a solution to the situation or wait things out?
- Do you tend to be someone who is laser focused on one thing or are you more likely to be dividing your focus among many different things?

**Examination:**

Read **Philippians 1:12-26**

- What is most surprising to you about Paul’s letter to the church of Philippi? Why does this stick out to you?
- **A Focused Mind is centered on Christ.** How was this evident in Paul’s life?
- Go through the passage and note all the times that Paul references Christ or the Gospel. What does this say to you?
- If Paul’s mind was centered on himself, how would his life have looked different?
- **A Focused Mind finds opportunities.** How did Paul find opportunities to advance the Gospel even in prison? (verses 12-14) How do imagine this scene looked? What do you think happened?
- The Bible Exposition Commentary says: “Sometimes God has to put “chains” on His people to get them to accomplish a “pioneer advance” that could never happen any other way...The secret is this: when you have the single mind, you look on your circumstances as God-given opportunities for the furtherance of the Gospel; and you rejoice at *what God is going to do* instead of complaining about *what God did not do.*”
- Has God ever put “chains” on you in order to give you an opportunity to further the Gospel? Share about that experience.
- **A Focused Mind looks for good.** What good did Paul find in this passage?
- Read verses 15-18. What would your gut response be if you found yourself in Paul’s shoes?
- Paul seems to be saying that the motives of the one who preaches Christ does not matter as long as Christ is shared. In fact, he rejoices even though people are doing it for the wrong reasons. Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

- Can you share a time in life where you chose to rejoice, even when you didn't really feel like rejoicing?
- What two factors does Paul list in verse 19 that helped him through his circumstances? How have these been valuable in your own life?
- **A Focused Mind is faithful in serving Christ.**
- Paul says in verse 21: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." What do you think it means "To live is Christ"? How would that look in everyday life?
- Look back at verses 21-26. What were the pros and cons of each option, living or dying? How did Paul become convinced that he needed to continue to live?
- "For me to live is \_\_\_\_\_ and to die is \_\_\_\_\_" Fill in the blanks yourself.
  - For me to live is money and to die is to leave it all behind.
  - For me to live is recognition and to die is to be forgotten
  - For me to live is power and to die is to lose it all
- What things in this world threaten to steal our attention and focus from God?
- What opportunities has God given you right now, in the midst of whatever life circumstances you may be facing, to engage and bless our community with the Gospel?

### **Application:**

What are you living for? Is living for Christ and having life in His name the most important thing in your life? Is your mind focused on Christ and serving Him? How would that change your priorities and perspective? What would it do to your view of the future? Spend some time thinking about these questions this week and commit to living a life focused on Christ.