

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing our series on Inspired Letters from Prison. Today's topic from Philippians: LIFE AND DEATH.

1) A desire for Christ to be magnified

- a. What did the Apostle Paul desire to happen during his imprisonment in Rome? Philippians 1:19-20
- b. What were some other hardships the Apostle Paul had already experienced as a follower of Christ? 2 Corinthians 11:23-27
- c. What were some ways Christ was magnified during Paul's imprisonment in Rome? Philippians 1:12-13,14, Philemon 10, etc.
- d. What are some ways Christ can be magnified in our lives today, even in times of trial and hardship?

2) Freedom from fear of death

- a. Philippians 1:21 What did the Apostle Paul mean when he said, "to die is gain"?
- b. Why does Satan view death as one of his greatest weapons? John 8:44, Hebrews 2:14, etc.
- c. What promises of Jesus remind us that we do not need to fear death? Luke 11:32, John 11:25, 6:39-40

3) A desire to depart and be with Christ

- a. Philippians 1:22-24 What did it mean for the Apostle Paul to depart and be with Christ?

- b. How does the inspired teaching of Paul to Christians in Thessalonica help us to understand what happens when we die? 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- c. What is the next conscious thought for the Christian who falls asleep in death? John 11:11-14,38-43, 5:28-29
- d. Why is the length of time we sleep in the grave insignificant for the Christian?

4) Living for Christ every day

- a. Philippians 1:24-26 Why was the Apostle Paul content to "remain in the flesh"?
- b. Philippians 1:27 How does the appeal of Paul to Christians in Philippi relate to our lives today?
- c. What is the difference between living a life "worthy of the gospel" and living a life so we can be worthy of salvation?
- d. The Apostle Paul anticipated that the Philippians believers would suffer persecution. (Philippians 1:29) Is suffering persecution inevitable for followers of Jesus? 2 Timothy 3:12, Matthew 5:10
- e. How can we maintain joy in the Lord even when we are experiencing persecution? Luke 6:22-23
- f. What lessons can we learn from followers of Jesus who have experienced persecution? Stephen, Peter, Paul, etc.

