**“A Sure Thing”**

Going deeper in Philippians 1:19-30

**INTRODUCTION –** From his prison cell in Rome, the Apostle Paul, uncertain of his fate, rejoices and gives thanks for the prayers of the church in Philippi and assures them that no matter what happens, God will be exalted.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, **19**for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. **20**I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. **21**For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **22**If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! **23**I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; **24**but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. **25**Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, **26**so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

**27**Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one Spirit,contending as one man for the faith of the gospel **28**without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. **29**For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, **30**since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. The 21st century has been described as the “Age of Fear”. As a Christian, what is your response to this description?

2. Where has God been able to use bad for good in your life?

3. What are your expectations when you pray for others? For yourself?

4. “For me to live is…Given your prioritizes and schedule this week, how would you finish this sentence? What would change if you said “Christ”?

5. What difference has your personal faith in Jesus made in your attitude towards death? Towards life?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Give thanks for those who lift up prayers for you.

\*Give thanks for God’s response to your prayers for others and theirs for you.

\*Ask for the Holy Spirit to give you courage to accomplish the work God has set before you.

\*Give thanks for all the “sure things” you have in your life (and death) because of your faith in Christ.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.* The Apostle Paul does not know how much longer he has to live and yet he rejoices over the prayers of his friends and he is determined to glorify Christ no matter what the circumstances. What/who will you rejoice over this week? How will you glorify the Lord? Who will you say “thank you” to? What do you need to change so that you can “conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel”?