

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

PHILIPPIANS

STUDY #3: Paul's Perspective Philippians 1:12-30

BIBLE STUDY METHODS

LOOK FOR COMPARISONS AND CONTRASTS

- **Comparison:** **simile** (a word picture which draws a comparison between two things; it usually employs the words *like* or *as*)
metaphor (makes a comparison directly: "*I am the vine.*" *John 15*)
- **Contrast:** **shows differences** - uses *but, however, instead, on the other hand, etc.*
Examples: Compare a horse to a camel: both are mammals, both have 4 legs, and fur.
Contrast a horse to a camel: a camel has at least one hump, but tails are different.
- What is the value of recognizing comparisons and contrasts in helping you understand what the Bible is saying??

INTRODUCTION

Compare and contrast Army & Air Force guest quarters!

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Philippians 1:12-18

1. How would you describe Paul's attitude about having to be in jail? (vv. 12 -15) Why is this unusual?
2. Often linking words (*and, but, the former, the latter*) point to comparisons or contrasts. What linking words do you see in this passage?
3. What are some of the different (contrasting) motives for preaching the gospel.

Wrong Motives	Right Motives

4. According to Paul, what is the outcome of these contrasting emotions?
5. What is Paul's response?

Read Philippians 1:19-30

6. Paul wrestles with living or dying. Identify the linking words in this passage.
7. Identify and write below the options of living and dying. Include in this the conduct Paul expects from the Philippians (vv. 27-30). How are these options different for a non-Christian? (i.e. not alone, on winning side, etc.)

If I Live....	If I Die....

8. We see Paul's perspective on life best described in the key verse of this passage, Phil. 1:21. What does he mean when he says, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"?

APPLICATION

- Have you been critical of the motives or methods of certain evangelists or other people? How does your attitude compare to Paul's? What changes do you need to make?
- How does your perspective compare to Paul's -- "to live is Christ and to die is gain?" What corrections are necessary?
- What's the most difficult circumstance you're presently facing? How can Christ be exalted in this situation?

For next week read the book of Philippians (10-15 minutes) and identify several major themes. We'll focus on Paul's attitude as shown in verses 2:1-18, and use the Bible study tool "lists."