



# Men in the Word

"Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart."  
Jeremiah 15:16



## Faith Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church Men's Ministry 2014

### Lesson 5

#### "Long for Jesus, Live For Others"

For Paul, life was all about Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:21). He was so passionate in his love for Jesus that the greatest desire he had was to **"depart"** this world and **"be with Christ"** forever. At the same time, he could see that there was a *great need* for him to **"remain in the flesh."** Knowing that his labor would bear fruit in the lives of others, and so bring glory to God, Paul was willing to postpone his own personal gain so that others might grow in their faith and in the joy of the Lord. Paul shows us by his example the fruit that will come from a life that has truly surrendered all for Jesus Christ. There will be *an earnest* **"desire"** for the presence of Jesus Christ and a sacrificial love for others. Has God brought you to this place in your walk with Him? Do you love to be with Jesus above all else, and do you desire others to know the fullness of that love also? Ask the Holy Spirit to draw you into an ever deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, so that a longing for His presence and a love for the welfare of others would continue to grow in your heart.

**Passage:** Philippians 1:22-26

**Key Scripture:** Philippians 1:24-25

#### **Scripture: Philippians 1:23-24**

What two things was Paul **"hard-pressed"** between? How did he describe his desire to **"depart to be with Christ"** in verse 23? What did he say about remaining in verse 24?

#### **Scripture: Matthew 22:36-39**

What does Jesus name as the two great commandments? Is Paul obedient to these commands of Jesus, based on what we read in this week's passage? Are you loving the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?

**Scripture: Matthew 20:28**

As God completes His work in us, we will become more and more like Him. What trait of Jesus does Paul manifest by his willingness to postpone the joy of heaven in order to labor for the “**progress and joy of faith**” in others?

**Scripture: Philippians 1:25**

Paul shows that for him “**to live is Christ**” by what he intends to occupy himself with if he remains. What does Paul intend to labor for?

**Group Discussion – Personal Application**

What is it that motivates your life? Do you hunger for the presence of Jesus Christ above all else? How can you satisfy that hunger in this life until the day you are with Him in heaven forever? Do you love others enough to want them to have the joy of knowing Jesus, or know Him better? Who are the people God has placed in your life (at home, work, or play), and how can you “**labor**” for their “**progress and joy of faith**”?

**Memory Verse**

**“For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.”**

**Philippians 1:23-24**