

To live is Christ!

□ Overview of the letter

- **The benefits of adversity (1)**
 - Moves you to pray (1:3-11)
 - Helps you become intentional about opportunities (1:12-18)
 - Sharpens your perspective (1:19-26)
 - Reveals your true identity (1:27-30)

God can use adversity to accomplish his plan and purpose

- **Have the mind of Christ (2)**
 - Live humbly (2:1-4)
 - Follow Christ's example (2:5-11)
 - Live out your salvation (2:12-18)
 - Follow godly examples (2:19-30)

Christ should live in and through us

- **Pursue a relationship with Christ (3)**
 - Following Christ is worth any sacrifice (3:1-10)
 - Press towards spiritual maturity (3:11-16)
 - Don't settle for imitations (3:17-21)

Our driving passion should be to know Christ better

- **Enjoy the peace of Christ (4)**
 - In your relationships (4:2-3)
 - In your worry (4:4-7)
 - In your private thoughts (4:8-9)

 - Thanks for helping (4:10-20)
 - Fond farewell (4:21-23)

Jesus Christ should make a difference in every aspect of our lives

☐ Recurring themes

• The fellowship of the gospel

- 1:5 – partnership in the gospel
- 1:7 – share in God’s grace with me
- 2:1 – fellowship with the Spirit
- 3:10 – fellowship of sharing in his sufferings
- 4:14, 15 – share in my troubles . . . share in giving and receiving

We share a unique bond as members of the body of Christ

• The unity of the body

- 1:27 – stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel
- 2:2 – be like-minded . . . one in spirit and purpose
- 4:2 – agree with each other in the Lord

The unity of the body is a powerful witness to a watching world

• Joy in adversity

- 1:3 – I thank my God . . . I pray with joy
- 1:12 – what has happened to me has served to advance the gospel
- 1:18 – because of this I rejoice
- 3:1 – Rejoice in the Lord!
- 4:4 – Rejoice in the Lord always
- 4:10 – I rejoice greatly

We can experience true joy regardless of our circumstances

• A life centered on Christ

- 1:6 – he who began a good work in you will complete it
- 1:13 – I am in chains for Christ
- 1:27 – conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ
- 2:5 – your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus
- 2:21 – not everyone is concerned about the things of Christ
- 3:10 – I want to know Christ
- 3:14 – I press toward the goal
- 3:20 – our citizenship is in heaven
- 4:13 – I can do all things through his strength
- 4:19 – my God will meet all your needs

Jesus Christ should penetrate every aspect of our lives