

DAILY READING PLAN



Week of August 14, 2022

Alive: Spirit of Life

Philippians 1:12-14; 20-30

Day #1 – Read Romans 10:9 | If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Do you remember hearing “the pitch” at some point in your faith journey? How did that impact your view of God?

Day #2 – Read Philippians 1:12-13 | And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ.

How do you need to make peace with your past?

Day #3 – Read Philippians 1:20-26 | For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

Do you know anyone who would talk about the end of life like Paul does in this passage? What do you think trusting in the future looks and feels like?

Day #4 – Read Philippians 1:27-30 | Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.

How have you struggled to remain in the present moment? What does it look like to be a “citizen of heaven” in the here and now?

Day #5 – Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 | For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.

What part of the timeline—past, present, or future—do you think congregations struggle to embrace the most?