

THEME: Late-in-the-day-comers

Philippians 1:21-30 New Living Translation

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.

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.

Late-in-the-day-Comers

We are all standing on the shoulders of someone

- In society's infrastructure
- In our thinking
- In the church denominationally
and locally

In all these respects we are late-in-the-day-comers

Some later than others

Overall how would you characterise the 'all' that we have received from our forebears

How would you rate it??

Thankful? IndebtedDisappointed?Burdened?

In theological terms we Gentiles are late-in-the-day-comers ...

Gentiles but the best had been saved till last

- 1 Peter 1:10-12 -
- Ephesians 2:4-10 -
- Ephesians 3:7-13 -
- Hebrews 1:1-4

The amazing generosity of God - to us late-in-the-day-comers

(See Parable of generous landowner)

What has God given us? What has God shown us?

Go back over the reading..... slide by slide

First slide - Philippians 1:21-24

Life - Now and even beyond this materialism/stuff

Not just an inner peace its a focus for

Fruitful service to others.... 'your sakes'

(We want to gift the later-than-us-comers)

Second slide - Philippians 1:25-26

Help them grow (Into what??In living for Christ?)
and experience joy! (What joy??)

Pride in Christ Jesus because of what he continues
to do in the lives of his people

(God is active in the present not just in the past....)

Third slide - Philippians 1:27-28a

Life as Citizen's of Heaven - now - shaped by the past
Good news of Jesus Unity....
not easy standing - fighting - potential for fear.....

What does this show OUR HOPE!

Is this a reality of yesteryear or the present??

Forth slide - Philippians 1:28b-30

Our persistent Hope puts doubt in our detractors

The Gift is not just privilege of faith -
but also the privilege of suffering?

Why is suffering a privilege?

What are the gifts of suffering? It helps shape us

It gifts us with:

- Compassion
- Resilience
- Deliverance
- Comfort
- Patience

Do you have a testimony??

We are late in the day comers

Paul seemed to think that his walk with Jesus might en-
courage the Philippians??

How might we encourage those who come after us??

Our Digs
Our Reputation
Our Unity
Our Motivation

