

Pastor Toby Locke
Week 4
1/28/18

Debrief Plan: 1/28/2018

...about Life and Death

(Philippians 1:18b-26)

Introduction: When your survival is at stake, you reveal what you **really** think and believe about life and death.

Reality #1: Life is a precious but limited commodity.

☐ "Upside-Down" Response: Spend it honoring YOURSELF.

☐ "Right-Side Up" Response: Spend it honoring CHRIST.

Okay, but how?

- Choosing to delight in Jesus. (1:21)
- Helping OTHERS delight in Jesus. (1:22, 24-26)

Reality #2: Death is a disruptive separation.

☐ "Upside-Down" Response: Avoid it at all costs!

☐ "Right-Side Up" Response: Accept it when God calls for it.

But WHY?

- Death unites me with the one I love the most. (1:23)
- Because a good death can "make much" of Christ. (1:20)

Conclusion:

- Have you made the choice to spend the limited, precious commodity of life that you have honoring Jesus or honoring yourself?
- Have you begun to ask God to help you die well when it's your time?

Icebreakers:

1. What would you eat if you knew it was your last meal?
2. If you were trapped in a burning building, who would you want to come rescue you?

Sermon Summary: We only have so much "life" and how we choose to spend it is crucial. Right-side up thinking, according to Paul, means that we will spend our lives honoring Jesus and not ourselves. Death, while not pleasant or desirable, is not to be feared or avoided, because it ushers me into the arms of the one I love the most, and because a good death can help me "make much" of Christ.

Discussion Questions: (*Read Philippians 1:18-26 together.*)

1. Have you ever been in a life-threatening situation? How did you handle the stress of it?
- * **Reality #1: Life is a Precious but Limited Commodity**
2. What are some of the most common things that people believe are worth "spending" their life on?
3. Do people ever re-evaluate their decisions about what they believe is worth "spending" their lives on? If so, when does this happen? Why do they re-evaluate?
4. When you are suffering, do you tend to be one of the "worship Jesus anyway" people or the "pout, whine, and complain" people? What makes the difference?
5. Why isn't it enough to just worship Jesus? Why does God seem to insist that we devote our lives to helping others worship Jesus?

* **Reality #2: Death is a Disruptive Separation**

6. Is it always wrong to want to avoid death for as long as possible? If not, then when does it cross the line and become something wrong?
7. What is one thing about loving Jesus "face-to-face" that will be WAAAAAY better than loving Jesus "long-distance"?
8. Do you know someone who honored Christ with the way that they died? What did that look like for them?