
SUNDAY WORSHIP GUIDE
PHILIPPIANS 1:18-26

Risk: Risk, Loss and Gain
Philippians 1:18-26

From last two weeks:

- A call of Christ to follow Him is a call of Christ to risk
- We are able to risk as we step out in obedience because God is good and unfailing in His love and mercy

One Thing:

- Risk that is right is risk that honors Christ

Gospel Thinking:

- Understanding the context

Philippians 1:7 - it is right for me to feel this way about you all – about the Christians in the city of Philippi – because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel

2 Corinth 11:23-33 - Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

2 Corinth 12:10 - For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong

- Risk that is right is:

1. Risk that magnifies the worth of Christ – vv. 20-21

- Matthew 14:3-4 – For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, ⁴because John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her."
- Hebrews 11:35-38 - Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

“So you’re going to die. You’re all going to die unless Jesus comes, and some of you soon, so Paul says, “I want Christ to be magnified as I’m dying, in my death.” How? “For to me to die is gain.” What happens when you die? You lose everything on the planet. All your dreams here — gone. Wife — gone. Kids — gone. Retirement — gone. There’ll be no marrying or giving in marriage in the age to come. It’s over. And when you stare that in the face, the loss of everything you’ve known and enjoyed here, and all you get is Jesus, and you say, “Gain,” then who looks good at that moment? *Jesus*. That’s the way it works, which is why I say Christ is most magnified in me — in my dying — when in my dying I am more satisfied in Christ than I am with everything on the planet, even what is most dear to me.” — John Piper

2. Risk that enables the progress and joy of other believers – vv. 22-26

“Christians make major life decisions (moving, accepting a promotion, choosing a spouse, etc.) without considering the effects of those decisions on the family of relationships in the church or without consulting the wisdom of the church’s pastors and other members; Christians buy homes or rent apartments with scant regard for how factors such as distance and cost will affect their abilities to serve their church; Christians don’t realize that they are partly responsible for both the spiritual welfare and the physical livelihood of the other members of their church, even members they have not met. When one mourns, one mourns by himself. When one rejoices, one rejoices by herself.” — Jonathan Leeman

3. Risk that makes Christ known to those who do not know Him – vv. 18b

- 1 Timothy 1:15 – The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost

Gospel Living:

- What will risk that magnifies the worth of Christ look like for you?
- What will risk that enables the progress and joy of other believers look like for you?
- And what will risk that makes Christ known to those who do not know Him look like for you?

“The strength to risk losing face for the sake of Christ is the faith that God’s love will lift up your face in the end and vindicate your cause. The strength to risk losing money for the cause of the gospel is the faith that we have a treasure in the heavens that cannot fail. The strength to risk losing life in this world is faith in the promise that he who loses his life in this world will save it for the age to come.” — John Piper

- Romans 8:35-38 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.