

# Adult Bible Discovery- September 20, 2020

## For Starters:

*There has rarely been a time in the last 2000 years when Christians haven't been ridiculed and criticized in some way by people. What are some of the most common complaints against believers? Which of these attacks if any, would you say are legitimate?*

Paul's most important goal in life was for the gospel to be proclaimed throughout the world. It didn't matter to him if the motives of the people sharing that message were for envy, or rivalry, or even for love and goodwill. It also didn't matter if he was the one delivering the message—he would continue to rejoice in spite of any hardships or setbacks because he knew God was always in control. At the end of Philippians chapter 1 Paul builds on this encouragement to the church in Philippi by making an appeal for them to live with a steadfast unity, for he knows that this will serve to achieve this same purpose of attracting others to the gospel of Christ.

## Read Philippians 1:19-30

- *Why did Paul say that he could continue to rejoice in spite of his suffering in imprisonment?*
- *What do you think Paul meant when he said, "to live is Christ and to die is gain" (v. 21)?*
- *What are some actions you would consider worthy of the gospel of Christ?*
- *Why do you think it is hard for believers to "stand firm in the one Spirit" (v. 27)?*
- *What factors do you think pose the most dangerous threat to the harmony of a local congregation?*

"Hallowed by Your Name" (Matthew 6:9). The phrase in Jesus' prayer is a petition, not a proclamation. A request, not an announcement. "Hallowed be Your Name...do whatever it takes to be holy in my life. Take your rightful place on the throne. Exalt yourself. Magnify yourself. Glorify yourself. You be Lord, and I'll be quiet."

The word hallowed comes from the word holy, and the word holy means "to separate." The ancestry of the term can be traced back to an ancient word which means "to cut." To be holy, then, is to be a cut above the norm, superior, extra-ordinary. Remember...the Holy One dwells on a different level from the rest of us. What frightens us does not frighten him. What troubles us does not trouble him.

I'm more a landlubber than a sailor, but I've pattered around in a bass boat enough to know the secret for finding land in a story...You don't aim at another boat. You certainly don't stare at the waves. You set your sights on a object unaffected by the wind—a light on the shore—and go straight toward it. The light is unaffected by the storm.

God is our sure foundation for when lives waves roll. He is the anchor for our soul. He is the light that guides us. He makes us stand firm. (From *The Great House of God* by Max Lucado)

- *What are some of the ways where your life has not been holy, or a cut above?*
- *What are those things in life that make it difficult to stand firm in faith?*
- *When have you struggled or suffered most as a Christian? What helped to get you through that particular time in your life?*
- *When Paul writes, "Whatever happens, conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." (v. 27) How might a Christian conduct themselves in a worthy manner when they have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God?*
- *How does living a life of repentance help you stand firm?*
- *How does it help you to know that you are going through some of the same struggles that Paul had (see v. 29)?*

*Lord of creation, there are times in my life where it is hard to stand firm. Often times I fail to stand for you and give in to temptation and sin. For those times, Lord, I ask for your mercy and forgiveness. Lord, even when I fail, you lift me up. Thank you for sending Jesus to be holy and a cut above. Help me to conduct myself in a manner worthy of the gospel. Amen*