

## Study 4 (Philippians 1:18-30)

*Read Phil. 1:18-26*

Are you a glass-is-half-full kind of person or a half-empty person?  
Maybe ask a friend and see if you agree!

What is Paul's optimism and hope founded upon? (v. 19)

What does Paul mean in 1:21: to live is Christ, and to die is gain?

Which does Paul seem to be more concerned with: death or bringing shame to himself and Christ? How do Jesus's words in Mark 8:31-38 reflect Paul's words to the Philippians?



"Christ Carrying the Cross" by Rembrandt van Rijn, ca. 1635

*Read Phil. 1:27-30*

In verse 27 Paul encourages the Christians in Philippi to "live as worthy citizens" of the gospel of Christ. What are some of the characteristics of that "citizenship" in the gospel?

Not only has God graced us with faith, he has also given us the ability to suffer for the sake of Christ. What message do we communicate to the world around us when we live out this truth?

As we reflect on Christ's suffering this week, let's pray that God would give us this counter-intuitive vision of suffering. Instead of responding to suffering with grumbling and doubt, let's ask God to help us trust in his eternal plan that will never fail for his children.