

## PIVOT – Uncompromising Flexibility

**Principle #3** - Paul reminds himself of his bedrock **convictions**  
vs. 21-26

- **‘For to me...’** – intense personal pronouncement
- **‘To live - CHRIST! To die – GAIN!’** No verbs needed!
  - Driving desire to press into the **Person** of Jesus  
vs. 3:8, 9, 10
- Paul knew that death is a **gain**, so he didn't fear or avoid the subject. In fact he longed for it.
- Paul also knew that staying alive was for one **purpose**, to serve others and help them come to Jesus and grow in Jesus.
- Paul's bedrock convictions: his **identity** – Jesus; his **purpose** - Saints

**Principle #4** – Saints stand firm in **purpose** vs. 27-30

- Christian **conduct** is not guided merely by a set of rules, but by a **purpose**: worthy of Jesus vs. 27
  - Carrying out our duties as citizens of **Jesus' Kingdom** – honoring our King
  - To live as citizens of Jesus' Kingdom, honoring our King Jesus, all while living and breathing as citizens and residents of **Rome**.
- Carrying out these duties in a culture of **opposition** vs. 28-30
  - Don't let **antagonists** alarm you vs. 28
  - Remember that suffering for Jesus is our **badge** of honor vs. 29-30

## Life Group Questions – May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Philippians 1:21-22:** *‘For to me to live is Christ, to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me;’*

### QUICK REVIEW

1. Last week we discussed the principle that during seasons of change it is vital for us to stay connected to our spiritual friends. How did you do in this area this week?
2. We also looked at the principle of strongly desiring to make Jesus more broadly known. How have you seen this done during this season of Coronavirus? Have you made Jesus known this week?

### MY STORY

1. Can you think of a time in your life that included serious changes or adjustments? What were the circumstances? Looking back can you see how your bedrock convictions helped you make good decisions during that season of change? Did this season of change help you re-clarify your purpose in life?
2. When have you felt the most connected to your spiritual community? What caused this sense of connection? Were you serving together to achieve a particular goal or purpose? Explain.

### GOING DEEP

1. Read Philippians 3:8-10. Paul uses the phrases *‘surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus’*; *‘that I may gain Christ, and be found in Him’*; *‘that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings’*. What do these statements reveal about Paul's bedrock convictions?
2. If you were to make the statement, ‘to live – Christ’ what would that mean to you in your life?
3. How do Christians at church work together to *‘live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ’*? How attached are you to the local group of *saints* at church? Are you helping the group accomplish its main purpose?

### PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for **you** to remember?