

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Fearless

Week of June 2, 2019

Week 7: Facing the Fear of Death (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Text: Philippians 1:20-23

The fear of death is understandable. Death is a transition of epic proportions and of completely foreign dynamics. As terrifying as death can be, Jesus can free us from that fear. The secret to becoming fearless in the face of death is understanding what is beyond the grave. Philippians can help.

Kicking it off: Do you have any plans for this summer? Tell the group about them

Discussion:

1. Reread *Philippians 1:20-2* I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

How can Christ be honored in Paul's death? How can Christ be honored in ours?

2. Read *Philippians 1:21* For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

How can death be gain?

3. Read *Philippians 1:22-23* If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two.

If Paul died, who would lose as a result?

4. Have you ever seen a Christian face death courageously? If so, tell the group about what was inspiring about their final days in this world.

5. Read *Philippians 1:23* I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.

Jeff explained that the Greek word translated "depart" is a nautical term used to describe a ship leaving the harbor. How does this differ from the popular understanding of death?

6. Paul says that death is the means by which we can "be with Christ." What do you look forward to in your heavenly relationship with the Lord?

7. If Heaven is "better by far," in what way do you imagine that heaven will be vastly superior to this earth?

Wrapping It Up: Do you know someone in their last years of this life? If so, pray that they would know Christ and the confidence that death in Him is gain.