

Joy from an Empty Bucket-list Philippians 1:19-26

What will my death-bed self feel when looking back at this moment in my life and the choices I am making today? Our answer to that question makes the difference between _____ and spiritual embarrassment.

Discussion 1. Ten years from now, when you look back on how you have handled the struggles of 2020, will you have regrets? If so, what are they? If not, does that bring a sense of joy?

For the Christ follower, even life or death decisions bring a certain joy in knowing that either result brings certain advantages. "To live is _____, and to die is _____."

Discussion 2. Have you ever faced a life-or-death decision for yourself or for a loved one? What is the difference between that decision for a Christian and that same decision for a nonbeliever?

There is very little real satisfaction in living strictly for myself and my own needs and desires. Genuine spiritual joy grows best and deepest in a life focused on _____.

Discussion 3. If you were to assign percentages to the amount of your life that is focused on yourself and the amount that is focused on others, what would the percentages be? Do you see those percentages moving in a good direction? Why or why not?

A Christ follower's purpose in this world is necessarily about others. The measure of our effectiveness in that purpose is _____ in those we have touched. Measure carefully and truthfully.

Discussion 4. What if our success in this life is measured entirely by the lives we have changed? How would that change your outlook on the coming week? What becomes more important and what becomes less important?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?