

**The ONE Voice**  
“The First Time They Heard His Voice”  
PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY  
February 28, 2021

**Thread:** **Choosing** Jesus as our highest goal of thought and action brings breakthrough clarity.

*“<sup>3</sup> Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.<sup>4</sup> Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy... <sup>6</sup> And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

*<sup>7</sup> So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart.”*

**Philippians 1:3–7 NLT**

**Acts 16: The ONE Voice is heard in Philippi**

**Lydia: Educated, wealthy, leader/entrepreneur, successful**

- “Riverside”
- “Seller of purple”
- “Worshiper of God”
- “Come to my house and stay”

**Slave Girl: Uneducated, destitute, slave/owned, broken & hopeless**

- “Spirit of divination”
- “Fortune teller”
- “She followed...crying out...‘way of salvation’”
- “Their hope of gain was gone”

**Jailer: Gave his best years to promote and represent Rome; committed devastating acts in the name of Rome**

- “Was about to kill himself”
- “Trembling with fear, fell down before Paul and Silas asking, ‘What must I do to be saved?’”
- “Washed their wounds”
- “Brought them into his house and set food before them.”

Three people--**once separated, broken and desperate**--are now **family, healing** and hope-filled.

These 3 people **challenge** our generation’s confused and contradicting IDEAS about how we live together as neighbors.

1. **STOP** seeing people as common; **START** understanding why God paid such a high price to restore them.

**Acts 10:16**

3x God spoke, “*What God has made clean (holy, wonderful, worthy of value in the kingdom) do not call common.*”

- How would I be willing to love my neighbor better if I believed they were not common?

2. **Separated, broken** and **desperate** people find deep friendship through Jesus.
3. **Humility** paves the way to imitating Jesus; preferring others as higher than ourselves.
4. God’s incredible **grace** is our example and inspiration.
5. Time to **follow** Jesus through the crowd.

*“But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.”*

**John 15:7–8 NLT**

**Challenge:**

- **How will you give your attention to The ONE VOICE that matters?**
- **Where do I start?**
  - Read MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE or JOHN. Listen, correct, & act.
  - What are you confused about?
  - What hurts in your life?
  - Where do you want to grow?
  - Commit to being present as God’s church when we gather; either in-person or online.

**Check out these FREE online studies from Doug Britton for further study:**

**Listen to God, Not Culture**

[www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/cultural-contamination](http://www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/cultural-contamination)

**Allow the Holy Spirit to Change You**

[www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/gods-spirit-in-you](http://www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/gods-spirit-in-you)

**The Power in Humility**

[www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/humility](http://www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/humility)

**Life Group Homework**  
For the week of February 28, 2021

## MY STORY

- 1) What are you most looking forward to this coming year?
- 2) How were you able to keep focused on Jesus being *the ONE voice* to listen to this past week?

## QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What challenged you from Sunday's message?

## DIGGING DEEPER/ TAKING IT HOME

One fact to note about the book of Philippians is that the apostle Paul is writing it to the church while he is in prison. This is helpful context to have when reading this passage.

*I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*

*<sup>15</sup> Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. <sup>16</sup> The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. <sup>18</sup> What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.*

*<sup>19</sup> For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup> as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup> But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup> so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.*

*<sup>27</sup> Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup> engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*

## Philippians 1:12-30 ESV

- 4) What is Paul's perspective on what has happened to him?

- 5) How is Paul keeping focused on *the ONE voice*?

- 6) What is Paul's hope for the future?

- 7) What is Paul's hope for the church specifically?

- 8) How does listening to God's voice help us achieve Paul's hope for the church?

- 9) "For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake." Why do you think Paul says this?

- 10) How does listening to *the ONE voice* help us endure with joy, persecution and affliction?

## CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read Philippians 1 and answer the following questions.

- 1) What does Paul teach that you need more of in your life?

- 2) What do you need to shift to keep God's voice *the ONE voice* in your life?