

The ONE Voice
“Surviving”
PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY
April 25, 2021

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

⁸...he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

...Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

¹⁴ Do everything without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵ so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. ¹⁶ Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. ¹⁷ But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. ¹⁸ Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.

Philippians 2:8-18 NLT

Insights from Paul's own words:

“...to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

Philippians 1:21 NIV

“...poured out like a drink offering.”

Philippians 2:17 NIV

¹¹He came over, took Paul's belt, and bound his own feet and hands with it. Then he said, “The Holy Spirit declares, ‘So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles.’”¹² When we heard this, we and the local believers all begged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.

¹³ But he said, “Why all this weeping? You are breaking my heart! I am ready not only to be jailed at Jerusalem but even to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus.” ¹⁴ When it was clear that we couldn't persuade him, we gave up and said, “The Lord's will be done.”

Acts 21:11-14 NLT

Death wish or choice for life?

“If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.”

Matthew 10:39 NLT

Someone who took the words of Jesus FOR others and himself so seriously that he could:

- _____ the ONE VOICE guiding him.
- _____ Jesus even with oppressive odds against him.
- Offer hope to people _____ to like/love.
- Offer hope to people he's not _____ to like/love.
“...our citizenship is in heaven”
Philippians 3:20 NIV
- _____ hope to those losing it.
“Paul sent for the disciples...encouraging them.”
Acts 20:1 NIV

Challenge:

- Who are you taking the words of Jesus seriously FOR? (3 for 30)
 - Hard to like/love?
 - Not supposed to like/love?
- Whose cup of hope are you helping refill?
- If you didn't have to *survive* your current struggles, what clarity appears?

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

Hearing Jesus — Prepare Your Heart

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/prepare-heart

Please Jesus — No Matter What

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/please-god

Be an Encourager

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/encourage-others

Life Group Homework

For the week of April 25, 2021

MY STORY

- 1) What is the most practical tool you use to help you stay encouraged?
- 2) As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What was your takeaway from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER/ TAKING IT HOME

² I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³ Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:2-9 ESV

- 4) What are Paul's instructions, and what do they mean?
- 5) What does it mean that the peace of God surpasses understanding?
- 6) How do we attain this peace according to Paul?
- 7) What are the things that Paul instructs the Philippians to think about?

- 8) How are you doing with your thinking?

- 9) What would be different in your life if you had the kind of peace that Paul describes in this passage?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Pray through the following questions.

- 1) What are the following things in your life? "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."
- 2) Pray and ask God to reveal these things to you.

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