

Reuben Munn Philippians 1:18b-25 - 4 September 2022

Overview

Reuben is a pastor from Shore Community Church, one of our partner churches in the Living Stones Network we are part of. This week's one-off message is one of encouragement, and follows on well from teaching about the persecuted church and placing our trust in God as we have been encouraged to do in Habakkuk the last few weeks.

In the face of the fear and anxiety that is becoming more and more prevalent Reuben brings us a message, a message originally from Paul in prison awaiting possible execution in Rome. What is our response, what then shall we do with this?

1. Have you ever been in a literal life and death situation?
2. Reuben used the analogy of Apps vs Operating System in unpacking 'to live is Christ'. What reaction or thoughts did this picture provoke for you?
3. Read through v12-30. This is a call to a counter-culture gospel. Pick up on the 'fears of this world', society, our culture that Paul attacks directly. Which verse encourages you to live fearlessly or more boldly, why?
4. Verse 21 is often called the hinge of all of the book of Philippians: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."
 - a. How would you explain this verse to a questioning friend?
 - b. How could they see it was true from how you lived your life?
 - c. How can you encourage one another to live as if this is true?

5. Out of your discussion today, spend time interceding; asking God to help our church, our life group to:
 - a. Make sure Christ is preached
 - b. have sufficient courage
 - c. continue to rejoice
 - d. conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ