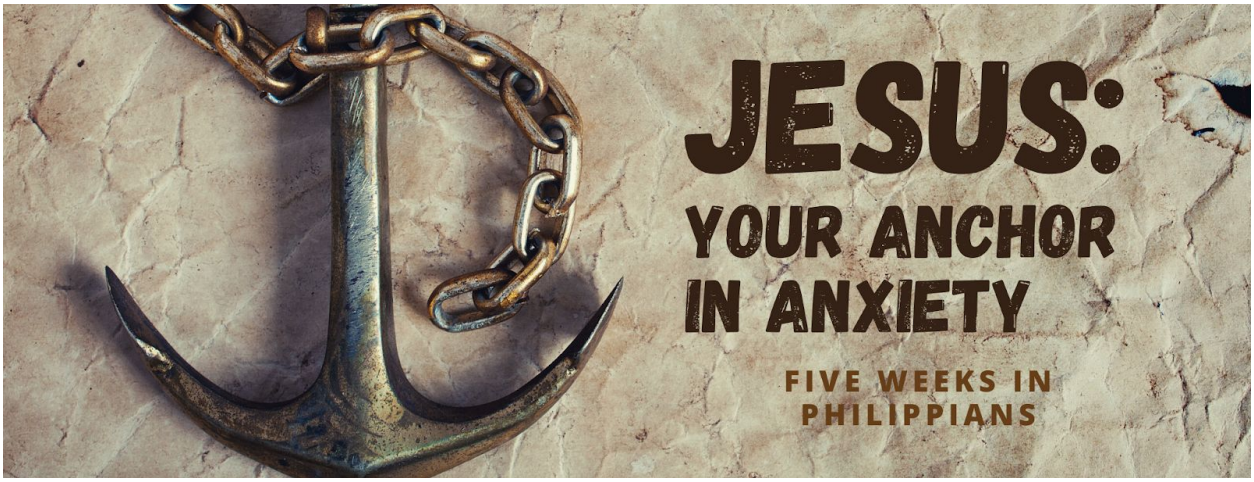

READING
Philippians 1:12-30

12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has
actually served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout
the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 And
because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in
the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. 15 It is true that
some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. 16 The latter
do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The
former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they
can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. 18 But what does it matter? The
important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is
preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, 19 for I
know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus
Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. 20 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. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in
the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not
know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is
better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the
body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of
you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you
again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.
27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of
Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I
will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the
faith of the gospel 28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose
you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be
saved—and that by God. 29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not
only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are going through the
same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

LISTEN
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https://www.allsaintsbooval.com/main-page-sermons

QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever learned something from the way someone responded to hardship and adversity in their life?

2. How is Paul responding to his imprisonment?

3. What does he mean in v.21 that for him, "to live is Christ and to die is gain"?

4. What does this passage tell us about suffering and God?

5. What do vv.27-30 tell us about the future? What is Paul trusting?

6. How does this passage speak into our anxieties day to day?

7. How might you us this passage to help someone who is anxious about their life and their future?

Pray: Merciful God, thank you that you help us through tough times and give us strength at all times. Help us to obey you and stand firm in our faith knowing that to live is to follow you and to die is to be with you. **Amen.**