

The Centre (Philippians 1:12-26)

Introduction

- In what circumstances will Jesus build his church?
- How does Paul illustrate this?

i Put the spread of the gospel at the centre of your ambitions (v12-18)

- What does Paul fix his mind on in v12-14?
- In what two ways has Paul's situation promoted the spread of the gospel?
 - i)
 - ii)
- What two motives for gospel preaching do we see in v15-18?
 - i)
 - ii)
- How does Paul respond in v18?
- How does he do that?
- What do we learn about Paul's heart here, then?
- How like him are you?
- Have you made progress in the last two weeks?
- What will be true of you if you do not have a heart like Paul's?

- What could you do if you are a bit cold to the gospel?
- What should you do if you have never believed the gospel?

ii Put the Lord Jesus Christ at the centre of your affections (v19-26)

- What is Paul's great desire in v19-20?
- From what two sources will Paul's help come?
 - i)
 - ii)
- What does Paul mean when he says that "to live is Christ" in v21?
- Why is death then gain?
- What are the two sides in Paul's internal conflict in v22-24?
 - i)
 - ii)
- How does Paul know it will turn out in v25-26?
- Can you echo Paul's words from v21?
- What could you do if you are a bit cold towards Christ?
- How does v23 transform the Christian's view of death?
- How can we make sure this is true of us?