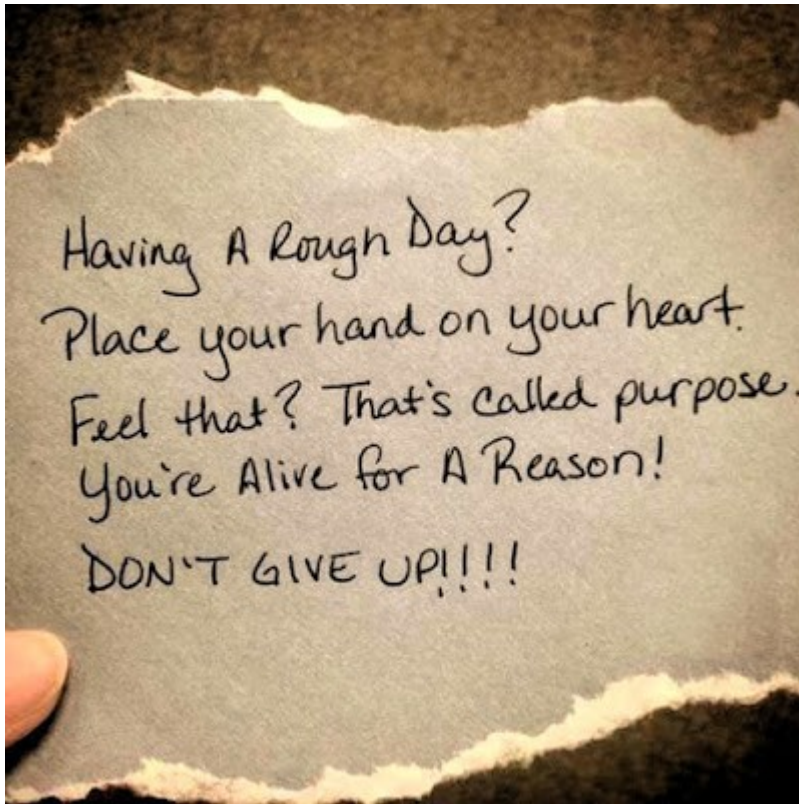


The reason



Much to my surprise our congregation recently stopped studying “The last week of Jesus” and began the study of the book of Philippians. At first I couldn’t understand “WHY”? Then it dawned on me- our congregation **needed** this study. You see- during the summer in Florida many of us travel and our numbers dwindle to a select few. People look around and when they don’t see as many of us as normal there is a natural tendency to be discouraged. And the proper medicine for this is... - Philippians, of course. A book written during Roman imprisonment; a book of joy. Paul writes...

Philippians 1 ([World English Bible](#))

¹² Now I desire to have you know, brothers, that the things which happened to me have turned out rather to the progress of the Good News; ¹³ so that it became evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest,

that my bonds are in Christ; ¹⁴ and that most of the brothers in the Lord, being confident through my bonds, are more abundantly bold to speak the word of God without fear. ¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even out of envy and strife, and some also out of good will. ¹⁶ The former insincerely preach Christ from selfish ambition, thinking that they add affliction to my chains; ¹⁷ but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the Good News.

¹⁸ What does it matter? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed. I rejoice in this, yes, and will rejoice. ¹⁹ For I know that this will turn out to my salvation, through your supplication and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will in no way be disappointed, but with all boldness, as always, now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life, or by death. ²¹ **For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**

Face it, we all have bad days. Days when nothing seems to go “right”, there seems no point in going on and the whole world seems to be a horrible place. Yet, amid this depressing scenario, if we step back and look at the larger view of things, quite often we can see a guiding light of encouragement. And that

encouragement is in **Jesus who is called The Christ**. He gives us hope and life and encouragement because he is LORD of all. Like Paul we can overcome any bad day by remembering The LORD will overcome any obstacle because **HE is LORD** and we are but servants doing HIS BIDDING.

Having a bad day?

If your heart is in the right place (devoted to Jesus), God will eventually work everything out. Believe this, for it is true!