

Philippians: To live is Christ.

Session 6: Suffer for him (Phil.1:27-30)

Scriptures: Phil. 1:27-30; Matt.5:1-12; Acts 8:1-4; John 15:18-20; 2 Tim.3:12; 2 Cor. 11:24-26; Heb: 11:36-38; 12:1.

Video: https://www.elim.org.uk/Articles/472840/Be_Church.aspx

- Read Phil. 1:27-30. In which does v29 cut across how most Christians in the western world view Christianity?
- What is your reaction to hearing stories of Christians being persecuted in other parts of the world or in other times in history? What emotion does it raise in you?
- What two forms of persecution does Jesus speak of in Matt.5:10-12? Jesus does not say 'Blessed are those who are persecuted...' but 'Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness . . . ' What is the difference and what is the lesson for us?
- Have you ever been "persecuted" for your faith? Have you ever "persecuted" someone else for their faith in the past? Have you ever 'lost out' for maintaining a Christian morality/ethic in your employment? (eg. an employer requested that you do something that your conscience would not allow)
- In which ways have you been misrepresented as a Christian? (It might have been over something that you believed).
- Why did Steve not want to ask: Would you be willing to suffer persecution for Jesus? Why did he feel that this a non-question? What question did Steve think was more relevant and appropriate to ask?
- Matt Redman writes:

*I've given like a beggar but lived like the rich
And crafted myself a more comfortable cross
Yet what I am called to is deeper than this
It's time You had my whole life
You can have it all.*

Take a few moments to reflect on these words as a prayer from your heart. In which ways do these words touch something deep inside of you?