

The Steps to A Meaningful Life (Philippians 1:3; 19-21)

Introduction: *A visit to a psychiatric hospital...*

- I. PAUL WAS IN PRISON TO BE EXECUTED & WAS JOYFUL
 - A. What were the steps to his meaningful life? (v.3)
 - B. We pursue steps we think will lead to meaning
 - C. But we learn that man-made “steps” lead nowhere

- II. WE CAN FIND OURSELVES IN A PRISON OF ‘SELF HELP’
 - A. Self-help and self-trust can lead to despair & beyond
 - B. *My windsurfing student: “up the creek without a paddle”*
 - C. His deliverance came by the hand of a **lifeguard**

- III. OUR DELIVERANCE COMES BY THE HAND OF A HEAVENLY LIFEGUARD
 - A. The “steps to a meaningful life” are NOT the steps we take
 - B. These “steps” were **the steps Jesus took** to the Cross for you & me
 - C. Paul knew these steps well as his life’s end was near (vv. 19-21)
 - D. We now can only say and live a life of thanks

Conclusion: *Thank God that Jesus took **the steps to a meaningful life** FOR US*