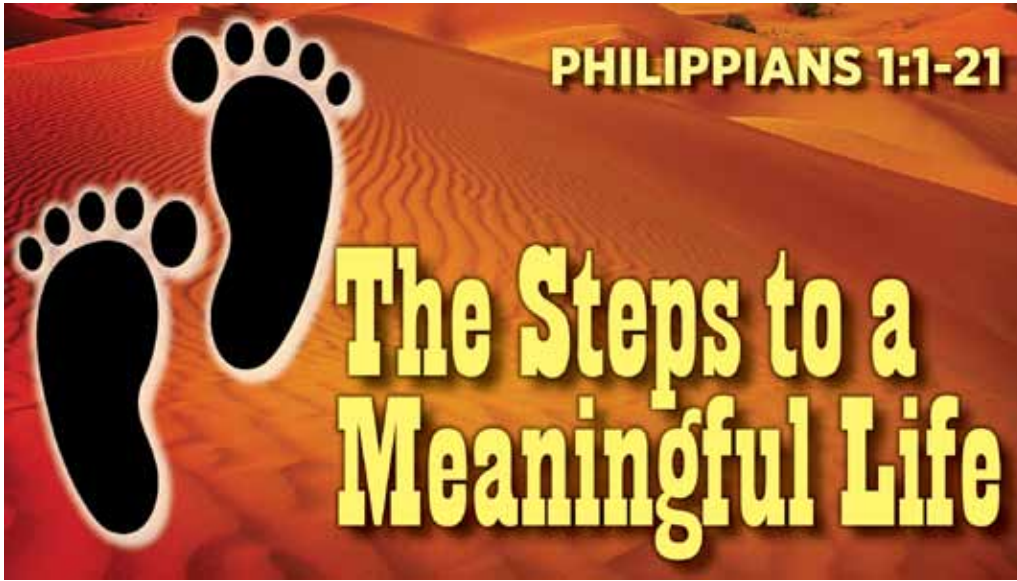


PHILIPPIANS 1:1-21



SERMON OUTLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

## “The Steps to a Meaningful Life”

Philippians 1:3; 19-21

### INTRODUCTION:

*A visit to a “rubber room” in 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 live a life of thanks

### CONCLUSION:

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