

To Live is Christ...

Philippians 1:18-30



Philippians 1:18-21

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Rejoicing in Circumstances

- Four years of prison wrongfully accused
- Trying time at sea and shipwrecked
- Imprisoned for the Gospel
- Others are encouraged by his example
 - Some out of love
 - Selfish ambition
- His focus is the Gospel not his circumstances!

Deliverance?

- Through the prayers of the saints
- Through the grace supplied by the Holy Spirit
- Through Paul's own faith and hope
- Released? NO?!
- Not deliverance from His circumstances!
- Delivered from fear of proclaiming his Savior
- That Paul may glorify Christ if he lives or if he dies!



Philippians 1:21-26

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

To Live is Christ...

- To live on is to fruitfully labor
 - To continue to align to Christ and put Him first
 - To display a life and character reflecting Christ
 - To use all of himself and all he had for the Gospel
 - To continue to encourage the believers
- If you have a pulse there is His work to be done!

...To Die is Gain

- What threat is death to one who belongs to Christ
 - To see your Savior and Lord face to face
 - To hear “Well done, good and faithful servant”
 - To be freed from sin, to only have right everything
 - Delivered from fears, anxieties, enemies, etc.
 - To truly finish one’s trials and find peace forever



Philippians 1:27-30

27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.

29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Paul Lives so He Encourages

- Live worthy of the Gospel of Christ!
- One spirit, One mind, One Purpose
- Fearless in the face of opposition to Christ
- Believing in Him always
- Being counted worthy to suffer for Him
- Like you witnessed in my testimony in Philippi

His Example Still Speaks

- It's not about our circumstances
- It's not about our reputation
- It's not about deliverance from trials
- It's not about our lives
- It's not about our deaths
- It's about our sharing the Gospel!