

# To Live is Christ

## Philippians – A Brief Review

- Paul writes the Philippians from prison
- The letter is littered with variations of the word “joy” (16 times)
- The Philippians are facing persecution
- Last week
  - Paul begins to report on his circumstances
  - 2 seemingly negative things (chains & critics) actually being used by God to further the Gospel!

*Philippians*  
*1:18b-26*

# To Live is Christ

Philippians 1:18b-26

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, <sup>19</sup> for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

*Philippians*  
*1:18b-26*

# To Live is Christ

<sup>22</sup> If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup> I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup> but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup> so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

*Philippians*  
*1:18-26*

# To Live is Christ

## Deliverance

- Paul expects to be delivered from his present imprisonment
  - Prayer
  - Power of Holy Spirit
  - Cause for rejoicing (chains, critics and release)
- Paul was eventually released from prison by Nero

*Philippians*  
*1:18-26*

# To Live is Christ

Deliverance

Courage vs. Shame

- Paul needs courage?
- God's people desperately need courage
  - “Be strong and courageous”
  - Caleb & Joshua, David, Daniel, etc.
- Where does our courage come from?
  - John & Peter before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4)

*Philippians*  
*1:18-26*

# To Live is Christ

Acts 4:8-13

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

*Philippians*  
*1:18b-26*

# To Live is Christ

<sup>11</sup> Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the cornerstone.”

<sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is  
no other name under heaven given to  
mankind by which we must be saved.”

<sup>13</sup> When they saw the courage of Peter and John  
and realized that they were unschooled,  
ordinary men, they were astonished and they  
took note that these men had been with  
Jesus.

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- Where does our courage come from?
  - John & Peter before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4)
  - Knowledge, Belief, Clarity
  - Jesus in Gethsemane

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*1:18-26*

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Deliverance

Courage vs. Shame

To Live is Christ

- Perhaps the hardest statement in the Bible
  - Our default setting is to live for ourselves
  - As a Christ follower you have given up the right to live as you please – you belong to God! (Rom. 14:7-9; 1 Cor. 6:20; Gal. 2:20)
  - Takes incredible courage in a world where our faith is seen as narrow and exclusive
- Fruitful Labour – the result of life in Christ

*Philippians  
1:18-26*

# To Live is Christ

What are you living for?

To live is \_\_\_\_\_

To die is \_\_\_\_\_

Anything other than Jesus in this blank is an idol – it's what you worship

*Philippians  
1:18b-26*

# To Live is Christ

What are you living for?

To live is *money*

To die is *to leave it all behind*

To live is *pleasure*

To die is *torment*

To live is *my children*

To die is *to forfeit a legacy*

To live is *power*

To die is *to lose it all*

To live is *fame*

To die is *to be forgotten*

*Philippians*  
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To live is \_\_\_\_\_

To die is \_\_\_\_\_

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1:18-26*