

Date: September 21, 2025

Series: Philippians: Triumphant, Tenacious, Battle-Tested JOY!

Title: “To Live is Christ! To Die is Gain!”

Text: Philippians 1:19-26



What is the source of Christian confidence in life and death?

I. The Confidence of Spirit-Empowered **Courage** (vv. 19-20)

- Paul attributes his courage to two external sources:
 - The **prayers** of the Philippian believers
Scriptures: *Romans 15:30-32; Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:3-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1; Thessalonians 5:25*
 - The **help** of the Spirit of Jesus Christ
Scriptures: *John 15:26; 16:13-14*
- For Paul, to **live** was to honor Christ through faithful labor & Gospel proclamation, and to **die** was to honor Him through confident hope in the resurrection.
Scriptures: *2 Timothy 2:3-6; Galatians 6:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:16*

II. The Conflict of Surrendered **Selflessness** (vv. 21-24)

- “**To Live is Christ**” A life fully devoted to Christ is a life of **fruitful labor** through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Scriptures: *John 15:5; Isaiah 55:11; 2 Timothy 4:5-8*
- “**To Die is Gain.**” Death for the believer is the eternal entrance into what they **lived** for through Christ!
Scriptures: *Romans 8:38-39; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57; John 14:1-3*

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”
Jim Elliot, Missionary to South America

III. The Commitment to Remaining for Others' Progress and **Joy** (vv. 25-26)

- Paul’s purpose in remaining was continued **disciple-making**!
Scriptures: *2 Corinthians 12:15*
- Our **JOY** in Christ directly correlates to our **GROWTH** in Christ!
Scriptures: *Psalms 16:11; James 1:2-4*

Questions for Review and Application:

1. Paul's courage in his circumstances came from two external sources: the prayers of the Philippian believers and the help of the Holy Spirit. In what areas of your life are you currently relying on either of these sources for strength and courage?
2. How can we honor Christ in our bodies, both in our living and dying? Who are some examples of people who have done this (both in Scripture and in more modern history) and how did their lives and deaths honor Jesus?
3. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to adjust the focus of your daily life to make Jesus more clearly visible to those around you? Why is it important to make those adjustments?
4. "To live is Christ" means a life of "fruitful labor". What does "fruitful labor" look like in your current season of life, and how can you be more intentional about it?
5. Paul's desire to "depart and be with Christ" was not a result of hopelessness, but a confident expectation of something "far better". How does your perspective on death reflect your hope in eternity?
6. Who are the people God has placed in your life where you can intentionally invest in their spiritual growth? What steps can you take to be faithful and fruitful in those relationships?