

PHILIPPIANS

JESUS OUR JOY

A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of November 15, 2020

To Live Christ, To Die Gain

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Philippians 1:21-26](#)

- For what or whom are we living? For what or whom are we willing to die? How you answer these questions will determine so much about you.
 - “What is my want? *I want to serve.* Whom do I want to serve? *The Lord in His wretched ones and His poor.* And what is my reward? *I serve neither for reward nor thanks My reward is that I am permitted to serve.* And if I perish in this service? *‘If I perish, I perish,’ said Queen Esther. I would perish for Him who gave Himself for me. But He will not let me perish.* And if I grow old in this service? *Then shall my heart be renewed as a palm tree. And the Lord shall satisfy me with grace and mercy. I go my way in peace Casting all my care upon Him.*”
 - Like a bolt across the sky, Paul writes these words of fearless faith and contentment in the face of suffering and hostility
 - “He who loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.” (Matthew 10:39)
“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10)
“It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 19:24)
“Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” (Matthew 22:39)
“Sell your possessions and give alms.” (Luke 12:33)
“Where your treasure is there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21)
“Whatever you would that people do to you, do so to them.” (Matthew 7:12)
“Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you.” (Luke 6:27)
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and strength and mind.” (Luke 10:27)
“Do not fear those who kill the body and after that have nothing that they can do.” (Luke 12:4)
“Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46)
 - In the Gospel we find Jesus, a reason to live, and a reason to be willing to die. Paul is so free that regardless of how his life turns out, he is full of joy. Without this freedom, though breathing, humans are dead.
- Paul is considering whether it would be better for him to die in custody, or be released and live. How does Paul **view his life**? How does Paul **view his death**?
 - In either outcome-- death or life-- what are the **advantages to Paul**?
 - What does Paul mean when he says, “**To live is Christ, to die is gain**” (21)
 - How does the **Gospel change how we think about death**? How does this impact the way we think about the death of those we love, and our worship practices at a memorial service or burial?
 - How would these defiant comments help the Philippian Christians deal with any **concern they might have about Paul**? How might a **similar conviction in your life bless others**?
 - Paul see that his life is for the Philippian’s “progress and joy in the faith” (25). Our life in Christ has a similar purpose. In God’s care for His people, **whom do you know that relies on you for their “progress and joy in the faith”**?
 - **Pray together in light of today’s passage.** Ask our Heavenly Father to give His people a great Gospel freedom in life and in death, a great hear for other saint’s progress & joy, and a great passion for the glory of Jesus Christ.

For Further Discussion: *Philippians 1:21-26*

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org