

## Philippians 1:12-30 "To Live is Christ..."

Ill: What do u live for? Me @ 13-15 = Snow Skiing; remember the moment "I live for this..."

App: Bible: costs u nothing u will take it 4 granted; anything worth something costs something

Exp: "Bumper sticker" phrases; usually Paul about himself; too quickly apply ourselves (cf. 4:13)

### 1:21 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

App: Popular saying to console those who've lost loved ones or are facing death themselves

We say it at funerals because we like to think of that person as "in a better place"

Exp: The end of the statement "to die is gain" is dependent on "to live is Christ."

We like to skip to: "crowns" "rewards" seeing Jesus "face to face" – all true

But if we can't say "for to ME to live is Christ" we can't say "to die is gain."

We will see Jesus "face to face" in 1Cor 13

The mortal will "put on immortality" and death will be "swallowed up in victory" in 1Cor 15

But u can be saved & be of no value to the kingdom: not "gain" but "suffer loss" 1Cor 3:15

Ill: "Have you ever been to a funeral like that?" – "who is the minister talking about?"

So what kind of life receives the reward? Why can Paul say "For to ME..."

Exp: Paul writing from Rome; after The Book of Acts; after 30 years of being a χian (cf. Acts 11)

Ill: "If you are 30 yrs old or younger stand-up" // "If you have been a χian 30+ yrs stand-up"

App: You & I need to grow-up into maturity, our life needs to reflect Christ in everything we do

How can we live our lives, as Paul, so we can say "To live is Christ..."

**Phil 1:12-14 To live is Christ... when your life advances the gospel**

Exp: “what has happened to me” – prison (appeal to Caesar → Roman house arrest)

“really...to advance the gospel” = people learn about  $\chi$  and  $\chi$ ians are more bold

Ill: Joseph “you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good” Gen 50:20

Jesus cf. Gen 3:16 Satan bruises Jesus’ heel, but his head is crushed

This is the story of the church throughout the centuries, persecution = growth

App: Just like an orange, when you’re squeezed, what’s inside comes out = gospel?

**Phil 1:15-18 To live is Christ... when you keep your purpose in perspective**

Exp: “Some... preach Christ from envy and rivalry... but others from good will... out of love”

Paul was a strong leader; when he was removed, others came in to fill his shoes

“Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice”

He didn’t question his circumstances; and he didn’t judge their motives; only results

His purpose wasn’t personal comfort or his own legacy; his goal was to advance the gospel

Ill: Group projects in school; there’s always one guy who doesn’t pull his own weight...

App: It’s not about getting credit; or how you are perceived in others eyes; or getting what you think you deserve out of life – it’s all about Jesus

How disappointed are u when life doesn’t go ur way? Ask: “how can this be a win for Jesus”

**Phil 1:19-26** To live is Christ... when you rejoice in the middle of life's struggles

Exp: "I will rejoice... not at all be ashamed... with full courage..."

Paul is in prison: no way to make a living, no freedom, no justice = rejoice!

"now as always Christ will be honored in my body... by life or by death"

Not dictated by circumstances: life = fruitful labor // death = gain

Ill: Live all-out for the gospel & don't quit early; finish-line completely spent – marathon

Reepicheep (Ch 14 "VDT") *"While I can, I sail east in the Dawn Treader. When she fails me, I paddle east in my coracle. When she sinks, I shall swim east with my four paws. And when I can swim no longer, if I have not reached Aslan's country, or shot over the edge of the world in some vast cataract, I shall sink with my nose to the sunrise and Peepiceek will be head of the talking mice in Narnia."*

What bumps in the road will stop someone like that? REJOICE in spite of your struggles

App: Are you living for your own comfort/circumstances, or for to you "to live is Christ?"

When life throws you a curve-ball, do you have Paul's resolve? "Christ will be honored..."

**Phil 1:27-30** To live is Christ... when you are willing to suffer for the cause of Christ

Exp: "let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ" proportion to the sacrifice of Jesus

"standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for ...the gospel"

Unity & community are extremely important for the sake of the gospel – **can't do it alone**

"not only believe but suffer for his sake" willing to suffer for the cause of Christ.

App: xianity is not "add some Jesus to make your life better" [job, spouse, family, emotions...]

The goal of life is not to be happy; but to serve the king & see the gospel go forth

**To live is Christ... when you make Jesus your lord.**