

To Live Is Christ, To Die Is Gain

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, May 3, 2020; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: Believers are able to stand firm in the faith by putting the good news of the gospel first in every area of life, which enables them to live for the glory of God, despite the difficulties, and die for the glory of God, knowing that absent from the body is present with the Lord and that is far better!

I. Honoring Christ With Our Lives – Philippians 1:18-21

- A. In verse 18, Paul makes it clear that he is rejoicing in the Lord, despite his imprisonment, and that he will rejoice in the Lord in the future, even if his situation results in death. How would you evaluate your commitment to rejoice in the Lord regardless of your circumstances?
- B. Paul highlights the Philippians prayers in verse 19. Do you allow your trials to cause you to pout or to pray? What do these verses teach us about the importance of intercessory prayer?
- C. How does the story of Job (Job 1:1-21) relate to Paul's situation in the Roman prison? What encouragement can we take from both of these situations?
- D. What do you think Paul means when he says, "to live is Christ"? What are some practical things that you can do on a daily basis to live for the glory of Christ and the good of other people?

II. Being With Christ In Our Death – Philippians 1:22-26

- A. Paul says in verse 22 that for him to continue in the flesh means "fruitful labor" for him. What is required for a person to have a fruitful ministry? What changes would you need to make in your life in order for you to have a more fruitful ministry to the people in your circle of influence?
- B. In verse 23, Paul says that his greatest desire is to be with Christ for that is far better. What are all the different reasons why being with Christ in eternity is so much better than being here now?
- C. For what purpose did Paul say he would remain on earth and continue ministering the gospel?

III. Deciding To Live For Christ Today – Philippians 3:7-10

- A. How is Paul's testimony in Phil. 3:7-10 helpful in evaluating your own relationship with Christ?
- B. As you think about your own situation, what are the greatest hinderances from sharing the gospel more often so that people can come to faith, grow in grace, and bear fruit for eternal life?
- C. What are some practical steps that you can take in your everyday life in order to love others better and prioritize their progress and joy in the faith?