

“To Live is Christ!”

May 6th & 7th, 2017

Philippians 1:19-21

“For to me to live is Christ...”

Life’s big questions include ... Why am I here on earth? Where did I come from? What am I worth? Do I have any intrinsic value? Do I serve a purpose? What am I living for? Where will I go after I die? These are all fundamental questions. How you answer these questions determines how you see the world, in other words, your worldview.

The answers to life’s big questions are found “in Christ”

Paul knew that ...

... God set him apart before he was born and called him to preach Christ to the Gentiles!

Galatians 1:15-16 “But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, ...”

... The love of Christ controlled him!

2 Corinthians 5:14 “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;”

... He was a New Creation in Christ!

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

- 1 Timothy 1:12-17

... God had blessed him with every Spiritual Blessing!

Ephesians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,”

- Redemption ... *Ephesians 1:7 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,”*
- An Inheritance ... *Ephesians 1:11 “In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,”*
- The Guarantee of Eternal Life ... *Ephesians 1:13 “In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,”*

... Nothing compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus!

Philippians 3:8 “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ”

... God valued him!

Luke 12:24 “Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!”

... Christ now lived in him!

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

... Christ was his life!

Colossians 3:4 "When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

Paul emphasized to the Philippians, "For to me to live is Christ..."

❖ Note Paul's references to Christ in this letter:

Philippians 1:2 ... Grace is from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6 ... God's good work in us will be completed in the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:8 ... Paul loved others with the affection of Christ.

Philippians 1:11 ... The fruit of righteousness comes through Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:13 ... Paul's imprisonment was for Christ.

Philippians 1:15 ... Paul commended the preaching of Christ to others

Preach: to announce ... to inculcate or impress through repetition.

Philippians 1:18 ... Paul rejoiced when Christ was proclaimed.

Philippians 1:19 ... Paul was helped through the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

❖ Paul wanted Christ to be honored in his body – whether by life or by death!

Philippians 1:19-20 "for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death."

- Paul knew that this would take courage.

- Daniel 3:16-18

- Paul knew that the prayers of God's people had power to sustain him!

James 5:16 "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

❖ Paul experienced sustained joy in this life, because he was living for the life to come!

"For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain!"

Endnotes:

- ◆ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.