

# WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Philippians 1:18b-26--March 12th, 2023

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## Sermon Recap:

### To Live or Die

#### I. Joy in Future Deliverance (v.18b-20)

Paul is imprisoned, awaiting release or execution, yet, he will "go on rejoicing." Why?

##### a. Deliverance from what?

- Paul rejoices because he has confidence in future deliverance.
- This deliverance is the salvation that comes in glory.
- Paul is confident that he will be delivered from the chains of sin, spiritual death, and the wrath of God.
- The difficulties and sufferings we face until that deliverance are preparing us for that day.

##### b. Means of Strength

- Paul is encouraged and his confidence strengthened knowing that the Philippians are praying for him.
- We are dependent upon the prayers of the church. When we face difficulties and do not know how God is working in our lives, the church can and should pray for one another.

##### c. Magnifying Christ

- The prayers of the church are that we would stay strong in faith and maintain our witness so that the greatness of Christ is made known in our lives.

#### II. Christ is All (v.21)

Paul is faced with a dilemma. How shall he pray?

##### a. Life equals...

- Christ is everything to Paul. He finds his purpose and satisfaction in Christ.
- The life of a Christian is one to know, love, serve, glorify, enjoy, fellowship with, and communion with Christ.

##### b. Death equals...

- Because Paul lives for Christ, death is even better for the believer.
- It is not a loss, but a gain, as we receive a fuller experience of Christ.

#### III. Making a Choice (v.22-26)

Paul weighs his options.

##### a. Choosing Life

- Choosing life means a continued ministry, serving Christ and his church.

##### b. Choosing Death

- Choosing death means immediately entering into the glory of Christ for eternity.

##### c. Confidence in Life

- Paul is confident that Christ will be most glorified in choosing life in order to serve the Philippians and advance the gospel.

## **Discussion Questions:**

- What is the reason for Paul's attitude in verses 12-20?
- Why do you think Paul is concerned with being ashamed?
- What was "more important than life" to Paul? How can that be a mark of our lives also?
- What is Paul's dilemma (v.22-26)?
- Which possibility do you think he would prefer, all things considered?
- What kind of difficulties might lead someone to long to be released from their suffering through death? How does Jesus Christ provide hope for suffering people who are considering life and death?
- What does Paul mean when he says that to live "is Christ?"
- How could Paul regard death as better than life in this world? Read 1 Cor. 15:20-58 & 2 Cor 5:1-8.
- What would it mean for the church if we really acted on the reality that "to live is Christ, and to die is gain?"

## **Application:**

- What does life equal for you? Are we travelers, content to stay in the hotel, enjoying the things of this life? Or are we seeking our destination, knowing that the best is yet to come?
- What have these verses shown you about how to live a joyful life?
- Paul's hope is that Christ would be honored in his body--whether in life or death. When we have the same hope, how will it shape our prayers--for both ourselves and others--in times when we are sick, suffering, or even approaching death?
- What specific spiritual needs do you have for which the church could be praying? Identify a brother or sister and share those needs.
- What comfort does this passage offer to those who are close to death?
- What confidence does it give you as you consider your own mortality?

