



Philippians 1:18b-30 – To Live Is Christ.

ADAM LONG | Week of November 11th, 2018

SERMON OVERVIEW //

If we look at the letter to the Philippians as a whole it is easy to see the over arching theme of this letter is **joy**. In a letter that could potentially be his last to them, Paul writes to ensure the church is encouraged by the truth that the unwavering joy he experiences is found in Christ and Christ alone!

BIBLICAL TEXT // Philippians 1:18b-30 ESV

Verse twenty-one is one of the foundational verses Paul brings before the Philippians.

²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (English Standard Version)

Five Observations from this verse about what a life worthy of the Gospel resembles:

FOR TO ME – it is **personal**. Paul had a personal experience with a personal God!

TO LIVE – it is **practical**. Salvation is a one time thing – sanctification is an everyday thing.

IS CHRIST – it is **possible**. Christ alone gives us a life worth living.

AND TO DIE – it is **predetermined**. Death is inevitable but in Christ we die a death worth dying.

IS GAIN – it is **providential**. For Paul, dying meant eternal gain with Christ in Heaven.

Paul understood that he has a death worth dying because he has lived a life worth living. A life worth living is a life lived in a manner worthy of the Gospel (vv.27-30). Paul outlines three means by which the church at Philippi and our church today can live in a manner worthy of the Gospel:

ONE: By remaining unified. (v.27)

He points to two positions: **standing firm** and **striving forward side by side**. These are the only two movements we should make as believers, as citizens of heaven: **standing firm** together on truth in the storms of counterfeit theology or **striving forward** together – pressing on towards the goal of heaven.

TWO: By remembering freedom. (v.28)

Our **salvation** in Christ should remind us of our freedom in Christ. But not only of our freedom but should serve as a reminder to the lost around us of their potential **destruction**. This should only happen through grace and through mercy – seeking lost out of the freedom we have seen.

THREE: By recognizing gifts. (v.29,30)

Paul says for the sake of Christ both **faith** and **suffering** has been *granted* to us. Both faith and suffering are gifts we have been given by God. **We will not enjoy faith without enduring suffering. And we will not endure suffering without embracing faith.**

Christ does not *need* us to live a life **for** Him – He *wants* us to live a life **in** Him!

REFLECT. || POINT. || MAKE.



Discussion Questions – To Live Is Christ.

COMMUNITYGROUPS | Week of November 11th, 2018

Question 1

What was something you wrote down or a truth that resonated with you from listening to the sermon, looking at the overview, or reading this particular passage in Philippians?

Question 2

In safe transparency, **how do you believe the way you live your life would finish this sentence:**

To live is _____. (i.e. family, work, money, possessions, memories, etc)

While talking through those thoughts as a group also take time to finish the thought all the way through: **To live is** _____ **and to die is** _____.

Question 3

Paul talked about a life that is in Christ and later encourages the church at Philippi to live a life worthy of the Gospel (v.27) – or in the Greek: *behave as* **citizens** worthy. **Believing those two things are rightly connected: what does it mean to live a citizen of the kingdom, not just a citizen of our country?**

Question 4

Paul clearly teaches the church at Philippi that both faith and suffering are gifts from God (vv. 29,30) **How does the truth that the faith you have in God is a gift from God Himself impact your daily dependence on Him?** Also, **how does the truth that the suffering we experience for His sake is a gift from Him impact the faith you have in Him?**

Question 5

How can we apply everything we have discussed from this text in Philippians to our lives as individual believers, as a community group, and as a church in the ways we magnify God? *Remember – magnifying God is not the act of making God bigger! It is the act of bringing him closer. A microscope is smaller than the stars it magnifies – it does not make them bigger, it merely brings them closer for our eyes to see them.*