



**Review Section**

- A. We can have JOY in spite of **troubles**.
- B. We can have JOY in spite of **detractors**.
  - i. God's purposes are often accomplished through our problems.
  - ii. The sharing of the gospel should always be our goal.
  - iii. Take courage from the examples of other Christians.
  - iv. The message of Christ is all that matters
  - v. Don't be surprised by those who detract from the Gospel.
- C. We can have JOY in spite of **death**.
  - i. They can expand your ministry, demonstrate God's sovereignty, and help bring glory to God.
  - ii. They cannot rob you of joy, take everything from you, or separate you from your spiritual inheritance.

**How death can become 'Gain'?**

- 1. We lose everything we don't need. (world, flesh, evil, doubt, trials)
  - 2. We keep everything that matters. (soul, faith, saved loved-ones)
  - 3. We gain what we never had. (Heaven, new bodies, God, Jesus, HS)
- Alexander Maclaren

**Literal Translation:** *To me! To live—Christ; to die—gain!*

**“For me, to live is \_\_\_\_\_?”**

**Message Section**

**JOY** In Spite of **Death**  
Philippians 1:21

**If you can say, ‘For me, to live is Christ !’**

**1. You can transcend \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances.**

**Philippians 1:12–14, NCV** -<sup>12</sup> *I want you brothers and sisters to know that what has happened to me has helped to spread the Good News.*  
<sup>13</sup> *All the palace guards and everyone else knows that I am in prison because I am a believer in Christ.* <sup>14</sup> *Because I am in prison, most of the believers have become more bold in Christ and are not afraid to speak the word of God.*

**2. You can transform \_\_\_\_\_ relationships.**

**Philippians 1:15–18, MSG** -<sup>15</sup> *It's true that some here preach Christ because with me out of the way, they think they'll step right into the spotlight. But the others do it with the best heart in the world.* <sup>16</sup> *One group is motivated by pure love, knowing that I am here defending the Message, wanting to help.* <sup>17</sup> *The others, now that I'm out of the picture, are merely greedy, hoping to get something out of it for themselves. Their motives are bad. They see me as their competition, and so the worse it goes for me, the better—they think—for them.* <sup>18</sup> *So how am I to respond? I've decided that I really don't care about their motives, whether mixed, bad, or indifferent. Every time one of them opens his mouth, Christ is proclaimed, so I just cheer them on! And I'm going to keep that celebration going....*

**3. You can tackle \_\_\_\_\_ uncertainties.**

**Philippians 1:19–24, NLT** -<sup>19</sup> *For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.* <sup>20</sup> *For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die.* <sup>21</sup> *For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.* <sup>22</sup> *But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better.* <sup>23</sup> *I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me.* <sup>24</sup> *But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.*

Answers: 1. Past, 2. Present, 3. Future.