

# NETCAST SERMON NOTES

**Series:** This Isn't Normal

**Date:** May 17th, 2026

**Title:** Live to Die

**Speaker:** Matt Chewning

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**Key Scripture:** Philippians 1:27–30; Genesis 11:1–9; Romans 5:3–5

**The Big Idea:** Our dreams reveal our kingdom. Following Jesus means trading the standard pursuit of comfort, security, and worldly acceptance for a heavenly citizenship that reshapes how we stand, strive, and suffer.

## 1. Live Like Heaven Owns You

Paul instructs the church to let their "manner of life be worthy of the gospel." In the original language, this is citizenship language. Philippi was a proud Roman colony, but Paul challenges them to be better citizens of heaven than citizens of Rome.

- **Anti-Idolatry:** Our highest allegiance cannot belong to a political party, nationalism, or cultural trends. Jesus died to create citizens of heaven, not political partisans.
- **A Kingdom Aura:** If heaven owns you, your daily life—how you handle relationships, money, sexuality, and time—should distinctly reflect the values of that Kingdom.

## 2. Unity is How the Kingdom Stands

One of the clearest signs of heavenly citizenship is standing firm together. Sin has always been designed to separate and divide through gossip, tribalism, racism, and bitterness because divided people are weak people.

- **The Lesson of Babel:** In Genesis 11, God acknowledged the immense power of a unified humanity, even when they were unified for self-glory. He dispersed them because a unified worldly kingdom can possess immense influence. The enemy knows that a unified worldly front can easily disrupt a fractured, divided church.
- **Striving Side-by-Side:** True unity requires one spirit (emotional connection and shared passion) and one mind (shared theology and philosophy), pushing forward like athletes (sunathleo) working as a team for the Gospel.

## 3. Fear Causes Compromise

Paul warns the church not to be frightened by opponents. Fear of rejection, loss of status, or social isolation often drives believers to adopt worldly beliefs just to gain worldly acceptance.

- **The Snare of Approval:** The church does not help the world by blending into it; we help the world by remaining distinct from it. Courage in the face of opposition is a direct testimony of our salvation.

# NETCAST SERMON NOTES

**Series:** This Isn't Normal

**Date:** May 10th, 2026

**Title:** To Live is Christ, but to Die is Gain

**Speaker:** Matt Chewning

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## 4. Suffering as a Reframing Gift

Paul makes the radical statement that it has been "granted" to us not only to believe in Christ but also to suffer for His sake.

- The Pain Indicator: Just as physical pain protects the body from destruction, spiritual and situational suffering exposes what we truly trust. It strips away illusions, humbles us, and deepens our dependence on God.

## 5. The Endurance of the Conflict

Paul reminds the Philippians that the conflict he faced ten years ago when he first met them is the exact same conflict he is enduring now in prison. Following Jesus does not mean our problems suddenly disappear; sometimes the battle stays. Our confidence is not that life gets easy, but that Jesus is always enough to see us through to future glory

**Reflection Question:** What do your current daydreams and anxieties reveal about which kingdom you are building? Are you trying to blend into the world for comfort, or are you ready to stand side-by-side with the family of God?