

Philippians - Week 6

To Live Is Christ

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know what I will choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed between the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better, 24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. 25 And convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that your reason for boasting may abound in Christ Jesus in me, through my coming to you again.

1. The Core Principle (v. 21)

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

Paul sums up his life’s purpose: **Christ is everything.**

Life means fruitful ministry for Him, death means being with Him.

2. The Tension Between Life and Death (vv. 22–23)

Paul wrestles with two good options:

Living means fruitful labor and continuing ministry.

Dying means departing to be with Christ, which he says is “very much better.”

3. The Selfless Decision (vv. 24–25)

Though he longs to be with Christ, Paul recognizes the Philippians’ need.

He is convinced God will keep him alive so he can continue to encourage and strengthen their faith.

4. The Anticipated Outcome (v. 26)

Paul looks forward to their increased joy in Christ through his continued ministry among them. His presence will give them even more reason to glory in Christ.