

# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia Message...

### The Joy of Living for Christ

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor  
May 3, 2026



### What are you living for?

Philippians 1:18b-26 (NLT) And I will continue to rejoice. <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 honour 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. <sup>25</sup> Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. <sup>26</sup> And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

**Big Idea: To live well is to live for Jesus Christ & to trust Him in life & death.**

### 1) Living well for Christ looks like...

- **Boldness in serving & proclaiming Christ.** v. 20-22

What would boldness for Christ look like for me this week?

Where can I take a step, so Christ is honoured by my life?

- **Helping others grow in joyful faith.** v. 25

Who has God put in my life that He wants me to invest in?

- **Living with an eternal perspective.**

Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT) "...I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV) "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

### 2) Dying well in Christ looks like...

- **Living without fear in the love of God.**

Romans 8:38-39 (NLT) "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

### What am I afraid of losing—and what does that reveal about what I'm living for?

- **Being present with Jesus at the moment of death.** v. 23

2 Corinthians 5:8 (NLT) "Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord."

1 John 5:11-13 (NLT) "And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. <sup>13</sup> I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life."

- **Experiencing resurrection & new creation.**

Romans 8:21-25

Galatians 2:19-21

**Big Idea: To live well is to live for Jesus Christ & to trust Him in life & death.**

What would it look like for you to say—honestly— "To live is Christ"?

What needs to shift in my priorities, my habits, & my focus?

What is one step I can take this week to put Christ back at the centre?



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To get plugged in email:

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**The Joy of Living for Christ  
#4 of 15 - May 3, 2026**

### **Context**

1. How would you answer the question: What are you living for?
2. Paul is writing from prison, facing possible death (Philippians 1:18b–26). How does his situation shape the way he talks about life and death? What stands out to you about his perspective?
3. In the broader letter of Philippians, Paul emphasizes joy and partnership in the gospel. How does this passage connect with that bigger theme of joy—even in hardship?

### **Observation**

4. Read Philippians 1:21: “For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.” What contrasts or tensions do you see in Paul’s statement? Where does Paul get his strength to live this out?
5. Paul says he is “torn between two desires” (v.23-24). What are those two desires, and why are both good in his eyes?

### **Meaning**

6. What do you think Paul means practically by “living for Christ”? How does that go beyond just belief into daily life? Read Galatians 2:19-21. How is this connected to our surrender to Christ?
7. Paul connects living for Christ with boldness, fruitful work, and helping others grow in faith. Why do you think these are key markers of a Christ-centered life?
8. Paul shows confidence about death—being with Christ and secure in God’s love (see also Romans 8:38-39). How does the promise of eternal life change the way a Christian can view death?

### **Application**

9. What are you currently living for—and what do your priorities, time, and habits reveal about that? Is Christ truly at the centre of your life?
10. What is one specific way you can live more boldly for Christ this week OR invest in someone else’s faith? (Be concrete and actionable.)



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