



Message 1: Christ Is My Life

Text: Philippians 1:18–26 (NLT)

Summary:

When Christ becomes your life, striving gives way to yielding. Paul shows that life's ultimate meaning isn't found in achievement, comfort, or pleasure. From prison, he teaches that even death is gain because Christ Himself is the prize. Life, real life begins when we **stop performing** and **start surrendering** to grace. So, what is it that you're living for?

1. Living for Christ Changes My Perspective (vv. 18–21)

Philippians 1:18–21 (nlt)

18 But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice. 19 For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance. 20 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. 21 For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.

2. Longing for Christ Clarifies My Purpose (vv. 22–24)

Philippians 1:22–24 (nlt)

22 But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. 23 I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with

Christ, which would be far better for me. 24 But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

3. Leaning on Christ Cultivates My Partnership (vv. 25–26)

Philippians 1:25–26 (nlt)

25 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. 26 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.

Discussion Questions:

1. According to Philippians 1:21, what does it mean for *you personally* to say, "To live is Christ"?
2. How does Paul's understanding of life and death challenge our culture's definitions of success and happiness?
3. In what ways have you seen "striving" replace "yielding" in your walk with God? What would it look like to return to grace?
4. Paul says his remaining life was for the "progress and joy" of others' faith (v. 25). Who in your life is growing because of your partnership in the gospel?
5. How does viewing death as "gain" change the way you approach suffering, service, and surrender today?