

October 6th – To Live is Christ

“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21).

Have you ever been in a win-win situation? Perhaps something like this: Let’s say it’s your birthday. Your spouse and your mother haven’t talked about the details of your party, so both of them decide to make you a cake. Your spouse makes a nice big chocolate cake. Your mom makes a coconut cake. The good news is you love both, so no matter what you pick you come out a winner either way. Eat up and enjoy your birthday!

As followers of Jesus Christ we are in the greatest win-win situation of all time. Paul said, “to live is Christ.” In other words, Paul is going to live each day for the glory of God as long as God gives him life. Think about what life with Christ means. Jesus said, “I have come that they might have life, and that more abundantly” (John 10:10). As long as Jesus is the Lord of our lives, we have the promise of an abounding life on this earth.

But what happens when this life is over? Paul says, “to die is gain.” Wait a minute – it sounds like he’s calling death a good thing. Could that possibly be right? Absolutely – for a Christ-follower, death is the doorway into the greatest life we’ll ever know. When a believer dies, there is no more suffering, pain, tears, sickness, sin, or anything else that causes harm. We’ll be in the presence of Jesus forever and nothing could be greater than that! Let’s agree with the Apostle Paul – each day with Jesus is a great day, but eternity with Him is even better! “Even so, come Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20).