

I'm Mortal Week 3

Philippians 1:20-26

Big Idea: The Gospel turns the end of life into the beginning of true life! Jesus' death and resurrection destroyed the power of death.

How should I FEEL about my mortal immortality?

How do I live NOW with immortality in mind?

Philippians 1:20–26 (CSB)

²⁰My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all courage, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²²Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don't know which one I should choose. ²³I am torn between the two. I long to depart and be with Christ—which is far better—²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. ²⁵Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that, because of my coming to you again, your boasting in Christ Jesus may abound.

1. How should I FEEL about my mortal immortality?

What does Paul know that we forget?

- **Death is not the end for a Christian—it's a doorway.**
Because of Jesus, death is not punishment—it's passage.
- Jesus didn't just *talk* about eternal life as a theological ideal. He walked out of a grave to prove it. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ changed everything about how we CAN feel about death.

The late theologian and pastor Timothy Keller when facing the imminence of his cancer said, “Death used to be and executioner. But the Gospel makes him just a gardener. Death used to be able to crush us. But now all death can do is plant us in God's soil, so we become something extraordinary. “

- **Being with Jesus is better than anything here.**

Paul isn't suicidal. He's not escaping pain. He just has a **clearer vision of Jesus** than we often do.

We tend to think: “Heaven will be nice... someday, but I've got a lot here I don't want to lose.”

What do you think heaven will be? Do you think that heaven is heaven simply because it's better than the alternative. Heaven is Heaven because Christ is there. Our greatest joy and treasure. Paul knows what Jesus taught:

Matthew 10:37–39 (CSB)

³⁷The one who loves a father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; the one who loves a son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸And whoever doesn't take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

³⁹Anyone who finds his life will lose it, and anyone who loses his life because of me will find it.

- Jesus isn't diminishing our love for those dear to us, he's elevating our understanding of what love rightly ordered should be. The grand song of a master pianist does not diminish the off key piano practice of your child. It gives you a perspective on what piano playing can be.

So how should we feel?

Philippians 1:20b (CSB)

...with all **courage**, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

Courage is the expectation of joy from the outcome outweighing the fear of the action.

When you KNOW you get Jesus you can feel UNASHAMED COURAGE.

How do I live NOW with immortality in mind?

Paul answers that in verse 22: “If I live on... this means fruitful work for me.” And verse 24: “To remain... is more necessary for your sake.”

Here’s the tension: Death is better because of Jesus. But life is purposeful because of Jesus.

So Paul says: “If I am to stay...I’ll stay... for you.”

Three ways to live with immortality in mind:

1. Live with a singular purpose

- “To live is Christ...”

2. Hold this life loosely

3. Invest in what outlasts you