

To Live is Christ.

Philippians 1:18-20 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. ²⁰According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

- **Vs 20** – Paul wasn't ashamed of his imprisonment; he was jailed for obeying God!

Being right in the center of God's will gives you the _____ of a _____!

- Magnified = megalunoô = _____
Ex: John the Baptist. John 3:10 He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

KEY: Life is Christ.

Philippians 1:21-30 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ²² But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. ²³ For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: ²⁴ Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you. ²⁵ And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; ²⁶ That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

- Was Paul suicidal? _____
 We don't worship a corpse! We serve a resurrected, a living, and worthy Lord!
 Our God isn't bleached bones but a **powerful life-giving source!**

²¹ For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

- What is your life _____ in?

Whatever your life is _____ in; that is what you will also _____ in.

Your _____ cannot _____ your life forever.

Life sourced in _____ but Christ is _____. It cannot last.

Problem: Confessing Christ as your Saviour, but not really calling on Him to be _____.

1. Life = _____!

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, **and the life**: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Biblically, REAL life is Christ in you.

Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

2. Death = _____!

²¹For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

- Everybody dies.

Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

What about the rapture of the church?

1 Cor 15:51-52 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

KEY: "We shall not all sleep"

Before Christ the Bible declares that you were _____ in your _____.

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Rom 6:3-5 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection:

Heb 12:2-3 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; **who for the joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

- But to die is gain. It's profit. In vs 23 he calls death "far better"

²³For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

²⁴Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

2 Cor 5:6-8 Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: ⁷(For we walk by faith, not by sight:) ⁸We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Don't you long for that?

KEY: **You can't keep a Christian _____.**

1 Cor 15:54-55 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

⁵⁵O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

- Paul knew how he served in ministry wasn't his call. This was up to the Lord.

²² But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. ²³ For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: ²⁴ Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you. ²⁵ And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; ²⁶ That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

Christian! There are many who need to know the joy of your faith. Invest it! **Eph 4:11-16**