

To Die is

Gain  
Amppians 1:19-26

# Philippians

## 1:19-26

Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

# Philippians

## 1:19-26

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

# Philippians

1:19-26

yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

# Overview:

- To Live is Christ
- Under What Conditions is Death a Gain?
- The Death Grip of Christ
- What Happens When Death Finally Comes?

To Live is Christ

# Background for Paul

- Lived by the Letter of the Law
- Had no moral failures
- Did not miss one aspect of obedience to God
- Completely missed seeing Christ in the Scriptures

# Background for Paul

How does someone know the Scriptures so well, yet completely miss seeing Christ?

Rom. 9:31-32, “Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works.”

# Background for Paul

From living by the Letter of the Law

To living by the spirit of the Law    Rom. 7:6

Gal. 1:23, “He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy.”

Theme: Letting go of one and holding on to another



“For to me, to live is Christ...”

Life as that which gives direction, the animating passion, brings and sustains hope, where to draw spiritual breath.

For Paul, he lives life...

For Christ (Phil. 1:21)

To Christ (Gal. 5:24)

By Christ (Gal. 2:20)

Through Christ (2 Cor.  
1:5)

In Christ (Rom. 6:11)

On Christ (Gal. 3:27)

With Christ (Rom. 6:8)

Into Christ (Eph. 4:15)

Preaching Christ (1 Cor.  
1:23)

With faith in Christ (Gal.  
2:16)

# Paul's Great Desire

To see Christ on display in his life

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To see Christ on display **in** his life

And to see Christ on display through his life

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# One Thing **Not** Being Said

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## Romans 8:35, 38-39

“Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, not things present, nor things to come, nor powers, not height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

## 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

“Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight – we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

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# Love in a State of Longing...

He longs to be with Christ

The waiting has caused the problems of this life to fade

Death ushers him into the presence of that which he longs for

... To Die is Gain

## Romans 5:3-4

“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

## 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

“Therefore, we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not to the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

## Second Thing **Not** Being Said

Paul does not want to die so he can escape his trials.

The trials are perfecting him (us).

Paul longs for heaven when he is rejoicing!

When we are being perfected by our trials,  
then Christ is our life, and death will be our gain.

# If Christ is Not Our Life

Death will not be a gain (from our earthly perspective)

Death will be a regret

“The key to magnifying Christ in life and in death is to find him more precious, more valuable, more satisfying, more joyful, more boast worthy than everything we lose in death – to die is gain – and everything we have in life – to live is Christ. Therefore, Christ is most magnified when we’re more satisfied in him than in what we lose in death and what we have in life.”

- John Piper

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# The Death Grip of Christ

## Philippians 3:4-6

“If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless...”

## Philippians 3:7-14

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,[...]

## Philippians 3:7-14

Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do:

## Philippians 3:7-14

forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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By what motive?

“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent his only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

- 1 John 4:9-10

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God's desire is to commune with his people  
(John 14:23)

Would you find it to be loving if God removed EVERY  
barrier to you enjoying that communion with him?

# Loosening the Grip of the World

Trials loosen our grip on this world *spiritually*

Death releases our grip on this world *physically*

“the last enemy that will be abolished is death”

1 Cor. 15:26

What to Expect When Death Finally Comes?

What is heaven like right now?  
What will I experience?

# What We Know About Heaven...

Luke 23:42-43

“And he was saying, ‘Jesus, Remember me when you come into your kingdom!’ And he said to him, ‘Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in paradise.’”

# What We Know About Heaven...

2 Corinthians 5:8

“to be absent from the body [is] to be at home with the Lord.”

# What We Know About Heaven...

Hebrews 9:27

“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment...”

# What We Know About Heaven...

## 2 Corinthians 12:3-4

“And I know how such a man – whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows – was caught up into paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak. On behalf of such a man I will boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to my weaknesses.”

# What We Know About Heaven...

## What Did Paul See?

1. He knew it was Paradise
2. Convinced him to leave everything to pursue it
3. Convinced that knowing more about it wouldn't help

Why not say more about Heaven?

All of Scripture speaks to the main attraction of heaven – Jesus Christ.



# Final Encouragement





