

“To Live Is Christ, And to Die Is Gain”
Philippians 1:18-26

This morning, the apostle Paul gives us a glimpse into his heart as soon he will receive the verdict handed down from the Roman emperor Nero. Through it all we learn that for Paul no matter what the verdict is for him, to live is Christ and to die is gain! May we all have Christ Jesus as the object of our life and live for his glory and for others to know and grow in him!

- **Paul’s Joy in his deliverance** (1:18–20; Job13:15-16; Ps. 34:3-6)

He recognizes and he is convinced that his deliverance (*meaning salvation*) will happen one way or another! He will either be vindicated by Caesar being cleared or vindicated by God in his death with eternal life!

Paul had confidence because he understood that his ultimate destiny was not controlled by any man or government! He knew the church would pray and the Holy Spirit would help him. Paul’s expectation and hope was to live and not be ashamed of Christ! *Rom. 1:16*

No matter what would come, Paul rejoiced because Christ was his life! May we do the same!

- **Paul’s Goal was to honor Christ in life or death** (1:21-24; Gal. 2:20)

“To live is Christ, and to die is gain”

Paul knows that he only has two choices before him. Life or death! He knows that his deliverance is not affected by death! But he wrestled with going to be with Christ in death or staying and laboring for Christ and his church! You can hear and feel the tension of this great pastor! He longed for others to know Christ and live and die for Christ glory! (*Gal.2:20*) Paul was captivated with the glory of God.

The way you live your life shows what is most important to you.

- **Paul Reassures the church** (1:25-26)

The apostle comforts and reassures the church that he will be released and remain and continue with them! He shares the purpose that will be served by his release:

- (1) their progress in the faith - growing in maturity
- (2) their joy in that faith - growing in maturity would lead to joy
- (3) their abounding glory in Christ through Paul’s surrendered life

May we live our life to glorify Christ and serve others in a way that they may grow in him.

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”
Jim Elliot, Missionary & Martyred by the Auca Indians January 8, 1956 in Ecuador