

Philippians 2026 Series -Lesson 9
“To Live Is Christ - To Die Is Gain”
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Introduction:

In verses 21-26 of this first chapter of Philippians we will examine the concept of living and dying with Christ as our focus. Understanding That God created the heavens and the earth and we are not the product of a cosmic accident and a chance evolutionary development is the foundation of how we approach life and view our objective. Logic and common sense assure a creator, and analysis and investigation prove the authenticity of the Bible as the historical record God has revealed to mankind. All attempts to discredit it have not only failed but have added to the certification of its authenticity. It is not only a reliable source of history but a directive for living life and a revelation of God's plan for the future, even into eternity. In determining the course of our life we must consider it and either accept or reject its premise. The decision we make concerning the existence of God and the reliability of His Word should dictate our objective in living and provide a sense of peace concerning death. My consideration has resulted in my adopting the Apostle Paul's summation, ***“For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.”***

Text: Philippians 1:21-22

For to me to live [is] Christ, and to die [is] gain. But if I live in the flesh, this [is] the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

Paul's philosophy concerning life and death is contained in a 'Nut-Shell Summary' by the statement, ***“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”*** It is a philosophy I adopted at the tender age of nine and have attempted to live by it throughout my life. It was, and continues to be, my study of the Bible that has affirmed its authenticity in the most minute detail. However, I recognize not everyone has that understanding about life, so let's look at it.

I. To Live Is Christ: (Philippians 1:21)

Look at Paul's first statement, ***“For to me to live [is] Christ,...”***

“For me” (emoi)(gar) = **as far as it concerns me...**

These two Greek word coupled together should be translated, **as far as it**

concerns me...

“to live is” (to)(dzaen) = the purpose of living is...

This is an Infinitive - denotes purpose

It is in the Present Tense - continuous action

It is in the Active Voice - Paul - the subject produces the action

“Christ” (Christos) = (is) Christ

In this nominative, singular, masculine noun Paul is saying that the life he was living was by his choice to live it as Christ or for Christ.

Translation: *As for as it concerns me the purpose of living is Christ*

A. To Live For Christ Requires Dying to Self:

1. To Find Your Life You Must Lose It (Matthew 10:38-39)

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

2. To Save Your Life You Must Lose It (Mark 8:35-36)

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Dying to oneself means that you do not pursue your own objectives but discover what God has appointed you to and enabled you to do through His gifting as He schedules your activity schedule through daily circumstances. This begins with your surrendering yourself daily to God's direction. In today's society its all about me. In the Christian life it is all about Him. You say that that's selfish on God's part, but the way we find true happiness is living out our design and that begins by dying to ourselves. The life God has designed for us is where we will find the happiness we pursue in all the wrong places.

B. Having Died to Self, Christ Can Now Live in You

1. The Old Sin Nature Is Crucified Positionally:

Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Colossians 3:9

Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.

2. The Old Sin Nature Being Crucified Provides Space for The New Man

Colossians 3:10

And have put on the new [man], which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Ephesians 4:22-24

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

3. We Are to Resist the Old Sin Nature and Consider Him Dead:

Galatians 5:13-26

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, [even] in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. [This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Romans 6:6-14

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye

also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God. {instruments: Gr. arms, or, weapons} For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Thus, Paul Says: **As far as it concerns me, my purpose for living is Christ!**

Paul could say that because he had died to himself and Christ was able to live in him. Christ could be magnified, made visibly larger, because Paul constantly crucified the Old Nature and was constantly putting on the New Man, resulting in his ability to resist the Old Nature and walk in the newness of life.

That was the entire objective of Paul's life. What percentage of our lives can we truly say is lived for Christ?

II. To Die Is Gain: (Philippians 1:21b)

“...and to die [is] gain....”

“And” (kai) And not just that, but...

“to die” (to)(apothanein) = and to have died as a matter of purpose...

Infinitive - Denotes purpose

Aorist Tense - action in a point of time generally in past time

Active Voice - subject produces the action

On the surface this may seem that Paul is referring to the greater profit of physical death and moving into the presence of God. However, this is an infinitive which denotes purpose. Here Paul is speaking of purposefully dying to self in order to live for Christ and that decision to die to self, results in gain.

“is gain” (kerdos) = would be a gain ...

This word is used in the sense of *profit*. If you want to increase your profit in this life, then dying to self, by choice, is the way to do so.

Mark 8:34-36 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall

it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

We will explore this concept more fully in Philippians 1:23

III. We All Have A Ministry In This Life: (Philippians 1:22a)

But if I live in the flesh, this [is] the fruit of my labour:

A. An Expanded Translation From The Greek:

“But if, as is the case, I continue to live in this physical existence, this very thing is that in which the fruit of my ministry will be involved and is the condition of that fruit being produced. Then what I prefer for myself I do not know.”

Paul said at that time, since he continued to be incarcerated at that that time, the advancement of the gospel by others was the fruit of his labor. Although he was unable to go from city to city others were motivated by him and were spreading the Word. Their work would be credited to his account as fruit of his labor. As the old saying goes you can feed a man a meal by giving him a fish, but you can feed him daily if you teach him to fish. Paul was incarcerated but he was teaching men to be fishers of men and instruction us all through the doctrinal instruction we are able to study today because of that incarceration. Because of his incarceration our work today is credited to his account.

B. We Are Each To Minister in the Area of Our Ministry:

Romans 12:6-8

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, [let us prophesy] according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, [let us wait] on [our] ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, [let him do it] with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

1. We are Appointed To Bear Fruit: (John 15:5)

I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Our spiritual gifts and our circumstances determine the fruit we are to bear. Some have mistakenly stated that the fruit of a Christian is another Christian. However, the fruit we are responsible to bear is determined by the gifting and the circumstances we encounter. God appoints the gifts and He manipulates the circumstances for the use of those gifts.

2. If We Are Barren The Father Will Take Us Away: (John 15:2a)

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away:..

We are here to live out a designed ministry. It is important for us to

understand what that ministry is and setting aside our own ambitions and goals, dying to self, watching the circumstances for opportunity and direction, living for Him.

3. We Will All Be Purged In Order To Bear More Fruit: (John 15:2b)

...and every [branch] that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

If we are unwilling to die to self and live for Him we are subject to recall, identified in Scripture as “sin unto death.” Salvation is not forfeited but rewards are awarded to others.

Conclusion:

The Purpose of The Believer’s Life Is To Glorify Christ! The Purpose of The Believer’s Death, Is To Glorify Christ! In order to experience the joy and inner-happiness God has designed for us in this life we must die to self and live for Him. Our joy will be proportionate to the degree we magnify Christ in our life.

But don’t get paranoid! If your desire is to live for Him, He will provide you with direction through His Word and circumstances to direct you. The greater number of Christians have the gift of helps and are called upon to model the Christian life before others, loving with a self-sacrificial love, treating others in grace, living the Faith Rest Life, and operating in the spheres of Grace.

Be Patient! We have an eternal God and time is a lot different to Him. Watch your circumstances, read you Bible, go to church, be submissive to His will, and He will guide your steps along the path of righteousness (conformity to the specifications of His plan).

But It All Begins at Salvation

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life...

With the heart man believes unto righteousness...

But with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!

“And your joy no man taketh from you...”

(Luke 16:22)