
CHRIST OUR LIFE

Yesterday we mentioned that our purpose for studying this epistle is to examine the principles we need to develop in order to experience the happiness available through the Christian life. I don't know about you, but without His joy my life would be "soul sick" indeed. Relying on His principles and His character truly do bring joy.

As we closed yesterday we saw four points that we can glean from the book of Philippians, we will cover those points for the rest of this week before we begin our study of the verses. Today we will look at CHRIST OUR LIFE, and what a life that is!

If you only have a short amount of time, just look at Philippians 1:21, and truly meditate on the words. What do they mean to you? What would our life look like if that were true in our lives? I have added some cross references for you. God's word is rich, and we cannot exhaust the truths inside. Enjoy your time in His pages.

First, read Paul's thoughts concerning his life in Christ. (Philippians 1:21) Write those words out to look at them in your own hand.

Quite often our words may echo that sentiment, but the actions in our life may speak the opposite to others around us. This is just between you and the Lord. **Write down any area that He is bringing to mind in that regard.** Sometimes just seeing it in print helps to deal with it. And deal with it we must if we are to live in His joy.

In the first chapter of Philippians we find seven evidences present when Christ is the believer's true life. **Look up the following verses and write down your thoughts of what is said:**

(1) The believer will have the affections of Christ (1:8). **What does the affection of Christ look like?**

Romans 8:35-39

Ephesians 3:14-21

Ephesians 5:2

(2) The believer will have the interest of Christ (1:12-18). **Do we have Christ's interest at heart, or our own?**

Acts 20:24

Romans 1:16

(3) The believer will have the Spirit of Christ (1:19). Our Helper, the Holy Spirit.

John 16:7-15

Acts 1:8

Romans 5:5

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Galatians 5:22-23

(Can I just add - we often pray, asking for patience or peace, but because of the Spirit living inside of us we have those and all the other attributes of His fruit available to us, so let's correct our thinking. We do not need to ask for those things, we need to submit to His production of them in us.)

(4) The believer's conduct will manifest Christ (1:20). Christ presented in life and death so that all may see Him.

I Corinthians 4:1-2

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 4:1-3

May I be so bold as to ask, what will your legacy be? Will others think of Christ when they remember you? Are you and Christ so integrally linked that they cannot separate Him from their thoughts of you? What heritage shall you leave?

(5) The believer will have a desire to be with Christ (1:23). **Are we holding on to this life, or longing for His return?**

Psalm 146:5

Titus 2:11-14

James 5:7-8

2 Peter 3:11-14

(6) The believer will show Christ likeness (1:27). The saying goes, "Preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words." In other words, our actions should show Christ loud and clear.

Romans 6:4-7

Romans 12:1-2

2 Peter 1:4-8

Can you name a few of the things that would show His likeness to others? How are you doing in those areas?

(7) The believer will have confident stability (1:27-28). If we believe the over 7,000 promises in His word, if we truly believe in the character of our God, our life should show evidence of that trust creating stability and, yes, happiness in our life.

Romans 5:1-11

Ephesians 1:7-14; 1:16-19

James 1:2-4

As you finish up today, spend some time talking to God about some of these areas that may have been convicting. Perhaps some areas you need to be more intentional in living out. **Write your thoughts, or perhaps other scriptures that might be pertinent to having a life in Christ.**

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." May our lives reflect that for all to see.

As always, if you have time, read through Philippians again, letting the words sink in and speak to your heart.