

Philippians 1:19–20

“The Sort of Life Whose Dying Is Gain”

Can you know for sure that you will be delivered from a trial? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these three verses, we learn that you can know it—if both your living and your dying are forms of deliverance. When our greatest hope and desire is to magnify Christ, then we can live boldly as those who know that in addition to all the deliverances of this life, death itself will be infinite gain for us.

Friday, March 5, 2021 • Read Philippians 1:19–21

Questions from the Scripture text: What is the apostle's level of confidence about this (v19)? For what does he know that this will turn out? Through what two things? According to what sure hope/expectation of his (v20)? With how much boldness does he aim at magnifying Christ? In what of his? By what two things? To him, what is it, to live (v21)? What is it to die?

Would you like to know that every situation will turn out for your deliverance? Would you like to know that you will never be put to shame? Would you like to know that you will always achieve your goal? Would you like to know that for you, dying will be gain? The apostle knows all of these things, and he shares his secret with us: for him, to live is Christ.

If Christ is everything to your life, every situation ultimately turns out for your deliverance. In this particular case, Paul faced two possible deliverances. The one deliverance, the apostle hoped would come through their prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful thing praying for one another must be, that the Bible yokes it here in conjunction with the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ! We cannot always know for our situation what the apostle knew about his; the Scripture calls us to love not our lives even unto death.

But there is a second deliverance that Paul has in mind here, as demonstrated by his saying “this will turn out for my deliverance” with words that came from Job 13:16 in his Greek Old Testament. It is the deliverance that will come at the judgment when he faces God. The deliverance that Christ had won for him already. With Christ as his everything, he could be sure that he would ultimately be delivered. You can have this confidence for yourself too. Everyone who calls upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved (cf. Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Rom 10:13).

If Christ is everything to your life, you can have with the apostle an “earnest expectation and hope that in nothing [you] shall be ashamed” (v20). How did he know this? Because the Scripture tells us that none who trust in Him will be put to shame. That trust will never fail. For I know Whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day (cf. 2Tim 1:12). And not only will you not be ashamed at the judgment, but you need not be ashamed even in this life...

If Christ is everything to your life, you can know that you will always achieve your goal. That's because, if “to live is Christ” for you, then your aim is that Christ will be magnified in your body. Well, if we live for Him, then He is magnified regardless of the circumstances in which we do so; in fact, when we live for Him in harder circumstances, that serves to magnify Him all the more! And if we die faithfully, He is magnified both in the manner in which we die, and the fact that our soul both immediately goes to Him and also will be reunited with a resurrected body in the last day. O Christian, make it your goal that Christ be magnified, and you shall always achieve it!

If Christ is everything to your life, you can know that dying is gain. It is an odd thing that so many who resent or resist the idea of living a Christ-consumed life would comfort themselves with fairytales of going to heaven, when it is a Christ-consumed place. Such a person would not find heaven pleasant, and ought not be confident that he is going there. Indeed, if you refuse to say that “to live is Christ,” then your death will be an unimaginable catastrophe, and you cannot say in truth that “to die is gain.”

But O, if Christ is everything to your life, such that your distance from Him and remaining sin against Him are your greatest pains, how great will be your gain at death when you are ushered into His presence in the very moment at which your appetite for Him is purified and perfected!

In what daily activities are you least mindful of Christ being everything to you? How can that change?

Suggested songs: ARP73C “Yet Constantly, I Am with You” or TPH73C “In Sweet Communion, Lord, with Thee”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

Philippians 1 verses 19 through 21, these are God's words for I know that this will turn out from my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing.

I shall be ashamed but with all boldness as always so now also, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live as Christ. And to die is gay. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word. Now. Wouldn't it be marvelous if you could live and die in such a way that you know that every single situation will turn out for your deliverance.

Well, The apostle says, I know. That this will turn out from my deliverance. And then he goes on to say at the end of the next verse whether by life. Or by death. So there are actually two different kinds of deliverance that the apostles talking about here one they deliverance that he receives by life where God superintendents to deliver him from the present life-threatening circumstances and enables him to go on laboring and bearing fruit for God's people and God's glory in God's world and we'll hear more about his confidence that that's the direction this is going in the next few verses but, If he happens to die will he not then be delivered from sin and all suffering?

And be put beyond the reach and even any effect of his persecutors who we already have seen can do nothing but increase his joy in Christ who is doing all things for his glory. Will he not be delivered from the body of this death that he bemoans so pathetically not not pathetically like that's pathetic but in a way that makes you sympathize with him at the end of Romans chapter 7 will there will he not be delivered into the presence of his savior the Lord Jesus with whom he is so obsessed would it not be a deliverance for him if he died?

And so. If for us life is Christ and death is gain then every single situation must turn out for your deliverance. This is the great neutralizer of all Christian anxiety. And yet he knows that there are ways that he can respond to the situation that he's in that are ungodly.

And ways that he can respond that do trust in Christ and live for Christ and announce in his mind and in his heart and with his desires and what motivates him in his actions and the standard that he follows in the law of God that all of those things will announce to live as Christ and that's why especially he says through your prayer and the supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ.

That he would live in confidence in Christ and live for the glory of Christ is something that he's battling against his sin to do. We do not passively slouch reflexively into living for the glory of Christ and out of confidence and Christ these are things that we need the Holy Spirit to act upon our new nature that he's given us working the life of Christ in us so that we will live for the glory of God and that we will be confident and in God, so he doesn't say I know this will turn out for my deliverance, so no need to pray for me and I've got enough of the, Supply of the spirit to to get me there now no he says I need you to keep praying for me.

I need the continual supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ so that I live by faith and the live for God's glory and he is confident that that will happen according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing. I shall be ashamed but with all boldness as always so now also, Christ will be magnified that means Christ will be displayed to be great in my body, whether by life or by death scripture says nobody who trusts in him that is in the Lord will be put to shame and everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved and so.

What he wants most of all is to live boldly as someone who lives for the glory of Jesus and there's nothing that that anyone can do to him to keep Christ from being magnified and his body because even if he suffers well, even if he is a suffers well unto death Christ will be glorified by the way that he suffered by the way that he died if Christ delivers him and he is he is set free to serve in a new and different place or in another way Christ.

Will be magnified and so if it is his aim to magnify Christ to show that Christ is great by his life then he can do so boldly without worrying that Christ will somehow not be glorified is it possible that Jesus would fail is there anything that will happen in this world that will diminish Christ's glory or make it look like he really wasn't worth it after all of course, not God forbid.

And so if that is what he is living for and if that is what he is aiming at then he can be bold in living that way because he knows that come what may? Christ is mine. Now some of you know, exactly. Where that phrase comes from and it really comes from Philippians 1 verses 19 through 21, doesn't it she says for to me to live as Christ if living comes Christ is mine.

But to die if living is Christ can you imagine how great your gain will be at death because for us living is Christ only so far only so much we have all that remaining soon that keeps living from being Christ unto us the way it ought to be we come to the end of every day and we sit on our knees together and we commit ourselves into the Lord's care and as we reflect over the day, they're so much in every single one of those days we're living has not been Christ.

And we grieve and we confess and we rejoice in God's forgiveness and we ask him for his help once you die, you'll never have that feeling that thought that experience that prayer again because in the moment that you die you'll be made perfect and holding us and you will live for Christ perfectly never have another moment and in which we have to confess that we've been cold-hearted towards him and served him half-heartedly and have been dull towards his glory and desired so many other things beside.

Him who never have to confess that again in the moment that we die living will be Christ. Infinitely more than it has ever been as bogged down as we are by our sin and in the moment that we desire him in the moment that we love him and live for his glory perfectly as we never have before we'll be ushered immediately into the presence of his glory.

And that newly perfected appetite for him will be perfectly satisfied and what scripture calls the third heaven where are the holy angels and the assembly of the glorified saints? Yes living is Christ and when to live as Christ life is an unashamedly impossible to be ashamed of.

Going from victory to victory as Christ as magnified in our lives. But if living is Christ then dying is infinite gain. Of course if living isn't Christ for you. Then death will be the most unimaginable catastrophe. Or so many who. Live for themselves and live for comfort and live to avoid suffering lived to avoid persecution live to avoid pain live to avoid trouble.

They don't live for Christ. And they know a little bit of. What passes for Christian theology. They comfort themselves by saying oh I'll be in heaven soon. I'll go to a better place. I'll rest in peace. But living hasn't been Christ for them and dying will not be gained for them.

Because those who do not live for Christ have no place in heaven, which is a Christ obsessed place. And the restraining hand of God that has kept their sin at bay will be removed. And they will be wicked towards others and wicked towards themselves and wicked towards God and God is no less present in hell than he is in heaven is impossible.

Because God's omnipresence isn't a bigness that expands to fill space. His existence in all places at all times. Is essential existence means that he is there in hell in all of his wrath against sin and all of his theory. And when the wicked die if you die outside of Christ your sin that you have worked so hard to try and comfort yourself about and excuse.

Will be perfected. In the moment that your experience of God's wrath for it is also perfected. It is the same. But opposite infinity of loss. So my dear children. The hold of God God the spirit stir up your faith. That more and more for the rest of this life, you would be saying to live as Christ.

So that for you to die will be infinite gain. Less you play act the Christian for some years in this world. While really to live as something else for you. And you find the dying in that case would be an infinite loss. God forbid. You'd be real with God.

And may he grant that for you to be to live would be Christ. And to die would begin.

Sprint.

Her father to heaven we thank you.

For the way you upheld Paul and. His imprisonment and in the prospect even if possible death. By setting Christ before him. So that he would rejoice to magnify Christ in his body. Even in those circumstances. And know that one way or another the outcome would be deliverance. And we thank you that you are the same yesterday and today and forever and that your spirit.

Is working the same faith in the same Christ and each of us who believe we pray. Lord the. You would. Give us great comfort and joy. Ever the. Knowledge of how infinite is the gain of him for him to live as Christ grant that every single one of us at this table would know what it is to have it be Christ to live.

And grant then that we would have it infinite gain when we die. Let us live and self-deception we pray. Unto the extent that we are living for other things in our currently.

Sin riddled state. We pray that you would help us to see what are those things that are competing? With our ability to say that it is for us to live as Christ. And help us mortify put to death. The disproportionate out of order. Love and desire for those things.

Blessed to us this portion of your word that we have just been considering we ask in Christ's name. Amen.