

Pastor's Pen

Live For Christ

**"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."
Philippians 1:21**

Paul is writing the church in Philippi. It was the first church established in Europe around 50 AD. Philippi was a Roman city located in the Roman province of Macedonia. He wrote this letter while he was imprisoned in Rome.

What is Paul trying to convey when he writes, **"to live is Christ and to die is gain"**? He is pointing to the transformative power of becoming a disciple of Christ. Everything changes. Before the transformation, we were dead in our sins (Eph. 2:1-2). We were slaves of sin (Rom. 6:20), unable to live for God. But all that changes when someone becomes a born-again believer in Jesus Christ. When you acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior and believe in your heart that He was raised from the dead, you go from death to life. Every believer can say, **"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting (1 Cor. 15:55)?"**

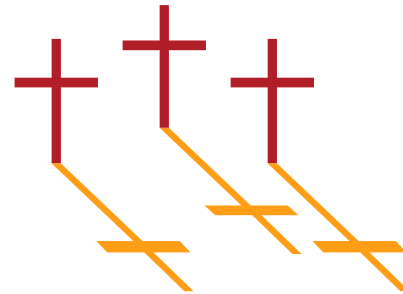
Christians can live their lives with no fear of death. That is what Paul means when he says to die is gain. As he wrote the letter from prison, Paul knew there was a chance that he would be executed, but he was not afraid to die because, just like the thief on the cross, he would be with his Savior forever.

What did Paul mean to live is Christ? It means that Paul's life was wrapped up in serving Jesus. His life was not his to live. He understood what Jesus meant when he said, **"Deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23)**. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, **"I die daily" (1Cor. 15:31)**. To live is Christ means:

- We pursue the knowledge of Christ. We read His Word, study His Word, and meditate on His Word.
- We are willing to give up anything that prevents us from living for Christ. No person or possession can come between us and Christ.
- We proclaim the Gospel of Christ. The Gospel that saved us is to be shared with all God puts in our lives.
- We should obey all that Jesus commanded. Love one another, forgive one another, and serve one another.

This is not a complete list, but it is a good place for us to start as we seek to live for Christ. If you are a disciple of Jesus, your battle cry should be the same as Paul's, **"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."**

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark



Quote of the Week

**"From the moment of the new and celestial birth the man begins to live to Christ."
-Charles Spurgeon**

Grace Gems

Here is a sermon which none can dispute! - George Everard

**"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in Heaven."
Matthew 5:16**

We are to let the beauty of Jesus be seen upon us, that some rays of His glorious holiness may be manifested to the eyes of the world around. We are to go forth clothed in . . .

His meekness,
His purity,
His love,
His heavenliness,
His unselfishness -

that sinners about us may gain some faint idea of His grace, through His likeness seen in us.

When, from beneath the humble garb of some lowly disciple, there shines forth something of Christ, something of what He was when on earth - here is a sermon which none can dispute, here is an appeal to the human conscience, more eloquent than the most powerful address ever made from the pulpit!

Christian, do you thus glorify Christ day by day?

Does your life speak so distinctly and plainly for Christ, that men cannot fail to hear?

Does your temper, your tone of thought and speech, bear witness that you walk continually before God?

Do men take knowledge of you, that you have been with Him - and that He is with you?

Is there transparent sincerity in what you say, and unsullied integrity in all your actions?

Is there the spirit of self-sacrifice - trampling SELF under foot, and spending time and money for the welfare of others?

Is there a deep hatred of sin as sin, and a desire to do the will of God under all circumstances?

Is there a fixed determination rather to die, than willfully to break a single command, or cast a shadow of dishonor on the name of Him who so loved you?

Do you "long to be like Jesus," and every moment to live devotedly and wholly in His service?

Then for this purpose, plead with Him this prayer, "Lord Jesus, glorify Yourself in me! Help me to show forth by my daily life, that I have been with You. May Your image be formed in me, and may Your life on earth be the pattern which I ever strive to follow."

Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and need to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address on the back of this bulletin.



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study; AWANA & Surge!



Service Times

Sunday Services 10:30AM
Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 08/04/2024

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| General Offering | \$11,783.56 |
| Building Fund | .\$3,077.00 |
| Uganda Missions | \$130.00 |
| Benevolence | \$100.00 |
| | |
| Total..... | .\$15,090.56 |
| Attendance | 220 |

Build the Body Ministries

- Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
- AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
- Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
- Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
- Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
- Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
- Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
- Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
- Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
- Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
- Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
- Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
- Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

Aug 11, 2024

