



Key References:

Philippians 1:18–30 (ESV)

[...] Yes, and I will rejoice,¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be [magnified] in my body, whether by life or by death.²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

“There are many of us who have built such a home for ourselves here – that we’re not even longing to see the face of Jesus. A lot of times as we’re waiting for Him to come, we fall in love with so many other things. That suddenly we can put off the coming of Christ. Many of us don’t want to die today because we’ve built such a good home for ourselves here on earth. And we’ve fallen in love with other things just as much as we love Jesus, or even more, so we’d actually be sad to leave earth and go be with Jesus” – Francis Chan

2 Timothy 4:6–8 (ESV)

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

1 – TO DIE IS GAIN

From the introduction to Philippians what do you remember about Paul’s current situation? Read Philippians 1:18b-30. What stands out to you about how Paul is trying to decide between life and death here?

Does our society believe that there is any “gain” in death?

Read the quote from Francis Chan. How do you think Francis’ words apply to us? How is it difficult to trust that “to die is gain” is true for ourselves?

2 – TO LIVE IS CHRIST

What did Paul mean by “to live is Christ”?

How does Jesus define himself as “life” from these four scriptures? John 14:6, John 11:25, John 6:35 and John 10:10. Does this change you answer to what “to live in Christ” means?

How does Galatians 2:20 expand on “to live is Christ”? Sometimes we don’t feel connect to Christ in our day to day lives. How can we experience more of this “to live is Christ” connection?

3 – MAGNIFYING CHRIST IS MAGNIFYING LIFE

From verse 20 where Paul says, “Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or death”, Andy brought up five points of how we magnify Christ from this text. Talk about each point & scripture. Discuss what it meant for Paul, what Andy said about each one, and what each one means for us.

v22 = Magnifying Christ is fruitful labor
[also Matthew 7:16, John 15:7–8]
What fruitful labor our you contributing to the body?

v24 = Magnifying Christ is essential for others
Why did Paul say his work was necessary?
Are you essential to the body?

v25 = Magnifying Christ results in progress of the faith
[also 1 Corinthians 15:57–58]
What progress do we want to see at Oceanside?

v25 = Magnifying Christ results in joy of the faith
Can we magnify Christ without joy?

v26 = Magnifying Christ causes others to glory in Christ
What does this mean? Why does Paul end with this?