

“LIVING FOR CHRIST”

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

OBJECTIVES:

1. To inform the audience about what it means to live for Christ.
2. To show the audience things needed in our lives in order to be able to live for Christ.

INTRODUCTION:

1. The background to the church at Philippi can be learned by studying Acts 16, which was written at about 50-53 A.D.
2. Paul took the Gospel of Christ to the city of Philippi during his second missionary journey.
 - a. The first converts in this city were Lydia, her household and the Philippian jailor.
3. About 10 years later, Paul writes a letter to this great church which, within only 10 years, was already established with elders and deacons.
4. Paul writes to encourage them to live their lives in accordance with God’s will.
5. Our text for this morning is found in Philippians 1:21, *“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”*
6. First, it is the purpose of this lesson to inform you about what it means to live for Christ, and second, to show you what we need in our lives in order to be able to live for Christ.
7. This lesson will be presented in two parts, so please be patient with me as I try to encourage us to live faithfully for Christ!
8. As we listen to this lesson, please allow the words of such to sink into your ears (Luke 9:44). May we also plan to practice the things we learn from God’s Word (James 1:22-25).

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE FOR CHRIST?

1. It means to love our brethren like He did (1:7-11; John 13:1, 35-35).
2. It means to preach His Gospel (1:12-15; cf. Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20).
3. It means to glorify Christ every day, and even at the time of our death (1:20; cf. John 21:19; Revelation 14:13; Psalm 116:15).
4. It means to trust in Christ (1:29a; 4:6-7).
5. It means to be willing to suffer for Him (1:29b; cf. 2 Timothy 3:12; Acts 14:22).
6. It means to follow His example (2:5-11; cf. 1 Corinthians 11:1).
 - a. Of love
 - b. Of humility
 - c. Of obedience
7. It means to work on our salvation found in Him (2:12).
8. It means to be a light to the world like He was (2:15-16).
9. It means to give up anything that would hinder your faithful service to Him (3:4-11).
10. It means to continually press toward the goal of heaven (3:14, 20; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Revelation 2:10). Great blessings...

- a. In Christ we receive a new righteousness (9-12).
- b. In Christ we receive a new goal (3:13-14).
- c. In Christ we receive a new home (3:20).
- d. In Christ we will receive a new body (3:21).

11. It means to rejoice always in Christ (4:4; cf. Acts 5:41; Colossians 1:24; Romans 5:3).

12. It means to have a new mind set (4:8; cf. Proverbs 4:23).

13. It means to practice the things we learn from God's Word (4:9; cf. John 12:48-50; 6:38).

14. It means to provide for the needs of those who preach the Gospel of Christ (4:14-18).

15. Are we doing these things? If so, then we are living for Christ!

THINGS NEEDED IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO LIVE FOR CHRIST

1. A genuine conversion like that of the Apostle Paul (Acts 9, 22, 26).
2. A genuine relationship with Christ. *We need to know Him!* (Philippians 3:10).
3. A genuine love for Christ like that of the Apostle Paul (John 14:15).
4. A genuine love for the brethren like that of the Apostle Paul (Romans 12:9).
5. A willingness to not put ourselves first (Matthew 6:33).
6. A genuine desire to spend eternity in heaven (Philippians 3:14).

THE BENEFITS OF LIVING FOR CHRIST

1. Paul says, "to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21b).
2. When we live for Christ, our death then will be gain.
3. Why gain?
 - a. We have the hope of eternal life in Christ (Titus 1:2; 1 John 5:11; John 11:25-26).
4. Living for Christ will help us to always do those things that please God!

CONCLUSIÓN:

1. What a wonderful life it is to live for Christ!
2. May God give us the wisdom and understanding to live in such a way as to always give Christ the glory and honor He deserves!
3. If you want to live for Christ, then please obey His gospel to be saved from your sins!

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