



To Live is CHRIST

A Study of the Book of Philippians

Lesson Two

Gold River Calvary Chapel
Women's Bible Fellowship

Spring 2021

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Step One: Read the Word

"In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3

This study uses the Christian Standard Bible translation (CSB), which is provided for you in each lesson in Step One. Please use that version to fill in blanks or answer questions, but you are encouraged to read as many translations as you like in order to get a fuller understanding of the scripture.

In Step One, try to determine the "who, what, where, when or how" of the passage. Look for words that are repeated often, such as "in Christ" or "joy" or "rejoice." Circle any key words and underline phrases that stick out to you. Use the column to the right to jot down any notes, scripture references, or questions you might have.

Note: There is an example of how to do Step One in the Introduction to this study. You can also use the "Bible Study Aids" included in the Introduction to gain more understanding of the passage of scripture.

Remember to always pray before you read God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to open the scripture to your understanding.

Read Philippians 1:12-21, starting on the next page:

Philippians 1:12-21
Christian Standard Bible

Advance of the Gospel

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually advanced the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is because I am in Christ. ¹⁴ Most of the brothers have gained confidence in the Lord from my imprisonment and dare even more to speak the word^[a] fearlessly. ¹⁵ To be sure, some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of good will. ¹⁶ These preach out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; ¹⁷ the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, thinking that they will cause me trouble in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What does it matter? Only that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to

rejoice ¹⁹ because I know this will lead to my salvation^[b] through your prayers and help from the Spirit of Jesus Christ. ²⁰ My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all courage, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

Living Is Christ

²¹ For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Step Two. Consider the Word

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Colossians 3:16

Re-read Philippians 1:12-21 and answer the questions below.

1.
 - a. Why did Paul's imprisonment serve to spread the gospel? (verses 12-15)
 - b. Do you think God still uses persecution to spread His gospel of salvation today? Explain.
2. What wrong motives did some preachers have to preach the gospel while Paul was imprisoned? Why? (verses 15, 17).
3. What right motives did other preachers have? (verses 15-16)
4. What mattered most to Paul? (verse 18)

5. a. Through what two things was Paul confident that he would be saved from his situation? (v.19) Note: the word 'salvation' in the CSB can be translated 'deliverance'.
- 1.
 - 2.
- b. In what way are these two things connected?
- c. These two things were important to Paul, but how important do you think they are in the church today?
6. What was Paul's eager hope and expectation? (Verse 20)
7. For whom did Paul live? (v. 21)

Memory Verse: For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. (Phil 1:21)

Write the memory verse down below:

Step Three. Walk in the Word

“...As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Philipplians 1:27

Re-read Philippians 1:12-21 and answer the questions below:

1. In verses 12-14, Paul was able to see that his imprisonment was being used by God to further the gospel and in that he **rejoiced**. It also appears that he did not stop preaching the gospel just because he was in chains.
 - a. What does Jesus tell us our attitude should be when we are persecuted for His sake? (See Matthew 5:10-12). Who are we being treated like when this happens? (See 1 Peter 4:12-16)
 - b. What is your “go to” emotion when you suffer an injustice or hardship?
 - c. What can Paul teach us about looking for how God’s kingdom may be advanced through our hardship or injustice?

- d. Can you think of an instance when God used a difficult situation in your life to magnify Christ to others?
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- 2. In verses 15 and 17, it appears that some preachers were using Paul's imprisonment to their own selfish advantage to promote themselves and make it harder emotionally on Paul. Yet, Paul chose to view the situation from Christ's perspective rather than his own, so that he was able to rejoice. How could this viewpoint change how you deal with a difficult person in your own life?
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- 3. From verse 19, it is clear that Paul greatly valued and relied on the prayers of his dear brothers and sisters in Philippi and on the Holy Spirit to be delivered from his bondage.
 - a. Why do you think both prayer and the power of God the Holy Spirit were necessary to him?
 - b. How reliant are you on the prayers of others and the Holy Spirit when faced with a difficult situation?

- c. For most of us, our chains are not physical as they were for Paul. Our chains tend to be sinful habits and thought patterns we cannot seem to gain victory over.
1. If this is you, have you taken your particular struggle to the Lord, asking for the power of the Holy Spirit to gain victory? Have you asked a trusted friend or friends to pray for you? If not, what is your hesitation?
 2. Let the following verses from Romans Chapter 8 be an encouragement to you to not give up! Keep knocking, seeking, and asking God until you have victory (Matt. 7:7)!

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Take a moment to praise God that He never leaves us or forsakes us but will complete what he has begun in us until the day of Christ Jesus! (Phil 1:6)

4. Look again at verses 20 and 21.

a. What connection do you think verse 21 has with Paul's eager hope that "I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all courage, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death."

b. Considering your own life and experience, how would you personally fill in these blanks from verse 21?

"For me, to live is _____ and to die is _____."

Heart check: We can all guess how we *should* fill in that blank, but between yourself and God, ask if anything else in your life might sometimes go in those blanks instead of Christ. As much as we love Jesus, most of us struggle with making even good things, like children, grandchildren, work and even ministry center stage in our lives at times. And dying can thus be dreaded instead of thought of as gain.

Journal anything that the Holy Spirit might show you that might be more important in your life at times over Jesus in the space below. In your prayer journal on the next page, thank God for that truth, and ask Him to help you make Christ your "all in all" so that you can say, like Paul, "Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or death."

Write the memory verse below:

For _____, to live is _____ and to die is
_____.

What lesson or truth meant the most to you this week?

Journal a prayer below, thanking God for that truth.

[illegible]

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.