

Philippians 1:21-26

2 To Live Is Christ

21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 [a]But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know [b]which to choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; 24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sakes. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy [c]in the faith, 26 so that your pride in Christ Jesus may be abundant because of me by my coming to you again.

Sermon Points

1. Life is about treasuring Christ above all things (21)
2. Life is about joyful and fruitful work for Christ (22-23b)
 - a. To live is for the joy and progress of others' faith (25-26)
3. Death is no threat for it is to be with Christ (23c-24)

Questions

1. Why does Paul view death as "far better" and how can you adopt the same mentality?
2. For what purpose did Paul say he would remain on the earth? How can you make Paul's purpose your life's ambition? How would this new mentality impact the way you work, study, and live?
3. How does Paul's trust in God's sovereignty over whether he lives or dies help him be more effective in his service? How could this same trust in God change how you live?
4. As we celebrate advent, how can the reality that our best life is to come when we are with Christ change your expectations for this holiday season? How can you, this Christmas, make it your ambition to live for the joy and progress of others' faith?