

“The Christian Work Ethic: For Me to Live is Christ” (Part 6)
Philippians 1:20-26

*“(Jesus) gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are **zealous for good works**.” (Titus 2:14). “**Do not be slothful in zeal**, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.” (Romans 12:11). “So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please (Christ)**.” (2 Corinthians 5:9). “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh**, to gratify its desires.” (Romans 13:14)*

- Philippians 1:20-26:

- *“As it is my eager anticipation and hope”*: This is Paul’s longing, his passion, his zeal.
- *“Christ will be honored in my body”*: Paul wanted Christ to be magnified, glorified, and made much of in his life.
 - *“Whether by life or by death”*: In Paul’s living and in his dying, his one aim was that Christ would be honored. Wow!
 - *“But I do not account **my life of any value** nor as **precious to myself**....” (Acts 20:24). “Even if I am to be poured out **as a drink offering**....” (Philippians 2:17). “I have been crucified with Christ. **It is no longer I who live**, but Christ who lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20). “You are **not your own**, for you were bought with a price.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*
- *“For to me to live is Christ”*: Paul is Christ’s servant, with the sole purpose of glorifying Christ’s name.
 - *“That means fruitful labor for me”* — If Paul is alive he is producing fruit.
 - *“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.” (John 15:8)*
 - Salvation (Romans 1:13) and Sanctification (Romans 7:4).
 - *“But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account”*: Paul lived to help people grow in Christ.
 - *“I will remain and continue with you all, for **your progress and joy in the faith**” — “**your progress**”*: advancing despite difficulties and obstacles.
 - *“But we work with you **for your joy**, for you **stand firm in your faith**.” (2 Corinthians 1:24; cf. Colossians 1:28-29)*
- *“For me to die is gain”*: When we die we lose all our earthly comforts, joys, and possessions but we gain Christ — **gain**.
 - *“My desire is to depart (to be untied or set free) and be with Christ, for that is far better”*: If I think to die is gain, Christ is honored. We are saying He is better than anything this life can offer.
 - *“So that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus”*: Paul wanted Christ to be glorified in this life and in the life to come.
 - *“So that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:7)*

Announcements:

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch TODAY, immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us!

★*For all other announcements, please see the November Newsletter!*