

To Live is Christ

Philippians 1.12-26

Philippi – 1<sup>st</sup> city in EUROPE to hear GOSPEL > thru Paul & team

Was UNIQUE, CLOSE Relationship btwn PAUL & Church & Timothy

Church Gave GENEROUS SUPPORT to Paul in his MISSION Travels

Paul in PRISON in ROME > they sent EPAPHRODITUS w/ Gift

HOPE Paul SEND Timothy to help SORT Out Church Problems

While there Epaphroditus ALMOST DIED! NOW RECOVERED

PAUL sends Ephap BACK w/ LETTER (Tim. NOT Coming Yet)

PAUL: SPECIAL LOVE for this Church: UNIQUE Relationship

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now  
Philippians 1.3-5

Paul NOT SURE he'd EVER SEE these Friends AGAIN?

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.  
Philippians 1.27

Paul had CONFIDENCE and JOY FOR THEM and IN THEM

...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart  
Philippians 1.6,7

1. Challenges

2. Critics

3. Crisis

4. Confidence

1. Challenges

I am in chains

Philippians 1.7

HARD to FIND DESCRIPTION of Paul's TROUBLES > Not a Whiner

what has happened to me

Philippians 1.12

Challenges NARRATED in ACT 21-28 > from Jerusalem to Rome  
 ATTACKED – FALSE ARREST – Yrs of WAITING – SHIPWRECK

NO Mention of LONELINESS, FEAR, HUNGER, COLD, PAIN

Surely they ALL – & MORE – Occurred – Times OVERWHELMED

Paul NOT AGREE with MODERN TEACHING > SILENT about Troubles

SOME NOT Speak of Pain or Problems > MAYBE they'll GO AWAY!

Paul had REAL FAITH > John Stott: 'Faith is REASONING TRUST'

Faith is neither naivety nor gullibility. It is neither illogical nor irrational. On the contrary, faith is a reasoning trust. It rests on knowledge, the knowledge of God's name. Its reasonableness arises from the reliability of God who is being trusted. It is never unreasonable to trust in God, since no more trustworthy person exists.

John Stott

Faith is not a blind thing, for faith begins with knowledge. It is not a speculative thing; for faith believes facts which are sure. It is not an unpractical, dreamy thing; for faith stakes its destiny upon the truth of revelation...Faith...is the eye which looks...Faith is the hand which grasps...Faith is the mouth which feeds upon Christ.

Charles Spurgeon

Today DIFFERENT Kinds of CHAINS, Some VERY DIFFICULT

'LOST' in Beijing – OFF God's RADAR Screen – Ends of Earth – OVER Edge  
 CLASSROOM of HYPER KIDS or LAB or OFFICE w/ Hostile Anti-Christians  
 Mom: CHAINED to Children in DIAPERS > Slave of their BODILY Functions

Paul Did NOT COMPLAIN of CHAINS > CONSECRATED them to God

LOOKed for What GOD was GOING To Do, Not FOCUS on What Did Not  
 CHAINS – CHALLENGES – Disappointments or Hurts > REAL & Painful

The same God who used Moses' rod, Gideon's pitchers, and David's sling, used Paul's chains.

Warren Wiersbe

God's logic is very different from ours. We assume that the circumstances must be right if we are to be really effective Christians. But God is not waiting for the circumstances to be right; he is committed to producing really effective Christians, whatever their circumstances may be. Sinclair Ferguson

## 2. Critics

BAD Enough Miserable Circumstances > People give you MORE MISERY

vs. 15,17 some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry...*(they)* preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

NOT PAGANS who used NAME of Christ in BLASPHEMY

NOT HERETICS who are spreading FALSE TEACHING

Christian 'BROTHERS' who show NO BROTHERLY LOVE for PAUL

NOT Preaching CHRIST > PREACHING THEMSELVES

Possible to have RIGHT MESSAGE and WRONG MOTIVES

Jesus: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' Matthew 7.21-23

Notice OUR LORD does NOT Say 'No Way, you guys NEVER Did That'

It seems they DID – Prophecy – Exorcise Demons – Work Miracles

They HAD GIFTS but NOT KNOW GIVER – Not Transformed by His GRACE

Like JUDAS ISCARIOT – One of 12 APOSTLES – LOST in the END

What EXACTLY were CRITICS SAYING? – we can ONLY GUESS –

- Anti-Semitic – Against LAW of MOSES

Acts – Preaching in Philippi BEGAN at Riverside NOT a SYNAGOGUE

Letter – Contains NO QUOTATIONS from HEBREW SCRIPTURES

- Anti-Roman – CHALLENGE Rome’s Right to Hold Paul PRISONER
- Anti-Paul – Good the OLD MAN is Gone, Now I CAN LEAD Church

IN-FIGHTING between Young Lieutenants striving to be NEW Commander

How about US? Is Christ HONORED by our MESSAGE & our MOTIVES?

These are Christians who bore no love for the apostle personally, who were anxious to see him remain in prison, and who intended to make the imprisonment as galling and irksome as possible. Ralph Martin

ENVY and RIVALRY directed AGAINST PAUL himself

v. 17 ‘stir up trouble’ = FRICTION – DIG Chains DEEPER in Wrists/Ankles

Paul shows INCREDIBLE – FOCUS on Christ & HIS KINGDOM Advance

v. 18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

The wrong motives of bad men must never be allowed to become the determining element in our attitude to either our own lives or the fellowship of the saints...It is very easy to develop a streak of bitterness in our spirits when we see the errors of other professing Christians...The result is an unattractive harshness, which does not commend Christ...We must reserve in our hearts a sanctuary of love for Jesus Christ – a sanctuary from which everything but trust in him and love for him is barred. Sinclair Ferguson

### 3. Crisis

Paul is NOT SURE what will HAPPEN to him in DETAIL

Whatever happens...whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence... Philippians 1.27

WE KNOW ‘The Rest of the Story’ > Paul wrote from LOCKED CELL

v. 22,23 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far

AGITATION in Paul's Mind > Seen thru BROKEN SYNTAX of Writing  
 PRESSURES of Opposite FORCES > CAN Result in INDECISION  
 He Really WONDERS, Which is BEST?? TIRED of Long MARCH

Serving JESUS does not TAKE AWAY our Hopes, Dreams, Desires  
 DISCOVER – Serving Jesus FULFILLS Greatest Hopes, Dreams, Desires  
 v. 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of  
 Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will *turn out for my deliverance*.

DELIVERANCE – Word is INTENTIONALLY ELASTIC

Delivered FROM PRISON? – BACK to Philippi? – DIRECT to HEAVEN?

PERHAPS he is THINKING of JOB'S WORDS – Will be VINDICATED  
 Now that I have prepared my case, I know I will be vindicated. Job 13.18

“I Eagerly Expect” > CRANING NECK to SEE what lies AHEAD

LIKE JESUS > Moments of DANGER & DEATH – He SERVED Others

The moment of death is the ultimate test of faith. Mary Ann Getty

HOLDS OFF Desire to be WITH CHRIST to SERVE CHRIST HERE

A CONTINUED LIFE Means a CONTINUED MINISTRY

PROMISES from GOD > Sure, Certain, Reliable, Trustworthy  
 NOT PRINTOUTS from HEAVEN with HOURLY UPDATES

WHY – MORE PEOPLE read DAILY HOROSCOPES than BIBLE

Want to KNOW --- EXACTLY – What to DO? Where to GO?

QUESTIONS Answered from OUIJI Boards, DIVINERS in Bazaars

BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY is a LIFE OF FAITH

KNOW Where we are GOING – Not sure WHEN or HOW we get There  
 Like when you got on PLANE to First Time in China – Mysterious LAND!

Jesus: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10.10

WHAT IS THIS FULLNESS? WHAT IS THIS ABUNDANT LIFE?

- NOT necessarily a LONG LIFE some will, some Die Young, Tragically
- NOT necessarily a PROTECTED LIFE believers pass thru Sorrows,  
 Famine, even Torture at times
- NOT necessarily a PIOUS LIFE > not everything is a Miracle, Blessing, or Hallelujah > Some Days are Hard, Uneventful, even Boring

The Abundant Life is above all the CONTENTED life, our contentment is based on the fact that God is equal to every emergency and is able to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. James Boice

MUCH Trouble, Sickness, Need in Philippi > How Paul Prayed for Them:

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1.9-11

PAUL’S MOTTO – v. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3.3

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Romans 14.8

MEANING? Confidence he will go to Heaven?? Yes, Absolutely – MORE!

Live & DIE in Way: POINTS to LIVING SAVIOR > More Come to Faith



Henry Opukaihia – HUMAN Reason  
 For the Christian CHURCH in HAWAII  
 Teenage Boy from Islands – Jumped on  
 Merchant Ship – China > went on to USA  
 NEW England – CONNECTICUT  
 Befriended by TIMOTHY DWIGHT  
 President of Yale College, Pastor  
 Led to SAVING FAITH in Lord Jesus Christ  
 Quickly Preached in New England Churches >  
 PHENOMENON - Most WHITE New Eng's  
 Never Seen BROWN Man > esp. Preacher

God used Henry touch HEARTS > W/ Love for his Hawaiian People  
 Henry never made it > Died at 27 in NE > Dozens M's to HI in Henry's Place

REASON for LIVING > Bring the JOY of Jesus and the Encouragement  
 of the Scriptures into the Lives of Others.

The widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. 1 Timothy 5.6

NOT JUST TRUE of WIDOWS > Anyone who lives for Pleasure is DEAD  
 Fires in CA – House Gone / Family Alive “My WHOLE Life is OVER!”

If the Lord continues to keep us in this life, he means our lives to encourage  
 others to grow as Christians and to bring joy to them...What is my life really  
 for?...Does my life encourage others to grow and rejoice? Sinclair Ferguson

NO RETIREMENT from Christian Service > Change JOB, not Calling

Church pastored HILO, HI Ask > ‘Who is Most Like Jesus? Most Spiritual?’

No DOUBT, UNANIMOUS Answer: NOT ME!! Or Dayna – Dan Johnson

# Hawaii Tribune Herald

Hilo HI

## Albizia menaces Hilo street Published August 12, 2013



Hilo resident Daniel Grant-Johnson, 62, suffers from a neuromuscular disorder that requires him to use a motorized wheelchair to get around. A 50 foot albizia tree grows next to his home.

The fast-growing albizia trees is an invasive species in Hawaii. Albizias are among the fastest growing trees in the world, capable of climbing 20 feet in their first year, 45 feet in their third, and up to 60 feet by the end of their 10th year. Their fast growth makes them weaker than normal trees. Huge branches, or even whole trees, can snap and fall with little or no provocation.

But when asked whether his limited mobility, combined with the ever-present threat that looms over his home, makes him worry for his safety, he is unequivocal in his lack of concern for himself: "Twenty-five years ago I gave my life to Jesus, so I'm not worried about what will happen to me," he says with a dismissive wave of his hand. Instead, Grant-Johnson says he worries for the multiple school buses, pedestrians and other passers-by that go by daily along the busy little residential street. "If that hits a person, it could do real damage," he said. "God forbid, someone could get really hurt."

**QUADRIPLEGIC – Moves Toggle of Electric Wheel Chair w/ Knarled Fingers**

**Known all over SMALL TOWN – Joy – Hope – Love – FULL OF JESUS**

**NOT MATTER of ABILITY – MOBILITY – STRENGTH > Jesus in You**

**Wheelchair – Bed Ridden > BETTER SERVICE for God's Kingdom**

**REASON for LIVING > Bring the JOY of Jesus and the Encouragement of the Scriptures into the Lives of Others > If NOT, you CHECKED OUT!**



## 4. Confidence

### a. Evangelism to Caesar's Guard

Thru Paul's ADVERSE Circumstances > GOSPEL Spread to NEW Areas  
NOT Likely SOLDIERS Search Out DESPISED, WANDERING Preacher

vs. 12,13 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

9000 Guards from EMPERORS PALACE on PALATINE Hill in ROME  
CHAINED to Roman Soldier – 24 hours a Day – 6 hr. Shifts – 4 Men a Day  
Paul must have been TALK of the PRISON –

- HEART was full of JOY
- DEEPLY Loved by Many who Travel LONG DISTANCES to See
- SIMPLE People give SACRIFICIAL GIFTS to SUPPORT him
- SOLDIERS: “The only chains that bind this man are held by Jesus”

I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. *But God's word is not chained.*  
2 Timothy 2.9

Chief of ENT Dept of National University Hospital in Singapore –

Well Known Believer – Church Elder – Mission Board Leader

Thyroid Problem > Saw Assoc. Dr. Thomas Loh > Excellent, Not Believer

Another Christian Doc there said, ‘Having Surgery, I will get the Chief’

NO! Trust Dr. Loh – Beginning Friendship – Sharing about Jesus

Sooo...he SLIT my THROAT – TWICE!! Used by GREAT PHYSICIAN

Email this Month ‘I have a picture of you and Dayna on my wall’

SURGERY in 2007 – Gave me HUG and ALL CLEAR in 2015

Perhaps my TRUSTING HIM will lead him to TRUST CHRIST

## b. Encouragement for the Church

Philippians DID NOT RUN AWAY when Paul was ABSENT from Church

v. 14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

ONE Problem > GRACE of GOD is FREE > OBEDIENCE is MISSING

ZGC Easy on People, NO DEMANDS: Like GOSPEL, Easy Come / Easy Go

FOR SOME = NO COMMITMENT / Freely Received > Freely GIVE

4 Million Chinese before Cultural Revolution > 100 Million After

v. 15,16 preach Christ...out of goodwill...in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel

NOT Preaching THEMSELVES or Building THEIR KINGDOM

THEY could say with their FATHER and MENTOR PAUL -

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 2 Corinthians 4.5

## c. Exaltation of Christ ULTIMATE AIM is the GLORY of JESUS

v. 20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

How COULD LITTLE OLD US – EXALT OUR GREAT BIG JESUS?

To glorify God is to make Him BIG in the eyes of others. African Pastor

The stars are much bigger than a telescope...the believer's body is to be a telescope...To the average person, Jesus Christ is a misty figure in history who lived centuries ago. But as the unsaved watch the believer go through a crisis, they can see Jesus magnified and brought much closer. Warren Wiersbe

Paul is LENS through which we SEE JESUS and TRUE FAITH in Him  
SEES all of LIFE thru CHRIST and IN X – 90 X's P's Letters 'IN Christ'

v. 12 what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

v. 13 I am in chains for Christ.

v. 18 The important thing is that in every way...Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

v. 19 your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ

v. 20 I eagerly expect and hope... now as always Christ will be exalted

v. 26 your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

Because of Paul's Chains > Christ was KNOWN  
Because of Paul's Critics > Christ was PREACHED  
Because of Paul's Crisis > Christ was MAGNIFIED

For me to live is \_\_\_\_\_, to die is \_\_\_\_\_

For me to live is *\_\_money\_\_*, to die is *\_leave it all behind\_*

For me to live is *\_fame\_*, to die is *\_\_to be forgotten\_\_*

For me to live is *\_\_power\_\_*, to die is *\_\_lose it all\_\_*

For me to live is *\_\_CHRIST\_\_*, to die is *\_\_EVEN BETTER!\_\_*

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## Philippians 1.12-26

12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. 15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. 16 The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. 18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. 20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted 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 go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.