

- A. Opening Greetings (1:1-2)
- B. Thanksgiving & Prayer (1:3-11)
- C. Proclaiming Christ Amidst Opposition (1:12-18)
- D. Magnifying Christ (1:19-26)
- E. Striving & Suffering for Christ (1:27-30)
- F. Godly Ambition in Christ (2:1-11)
- G. Work out Your Salvation (2:12-16)
- F'. Godly Ambition in Christ (2:17-30)
- E'. All things for Christ (3:1-11)
- D'. Pressing toward the Goal in Christ (3:12-16)
- C'. Standing Firm Amidst Opposition (3:17-4:7)
- B'. Exhortation & Thanksgiving (4:8-20)
- A'. Closing Greetings (4:21-23)

To Live is Christ

Philippians, Part V

Philippians 1:19-26 & 3:12-16

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I. Follow Me!

Christ calls us to follow Him because apart from Him *we* are empty. He summons us to follow Him because this is what we were designed to do as human beings. As Augustine once declared, *“Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee!”*

II. A Chiastic Outline

The transformative power of living a life centered on Christ continues to saturate Paul’s words today. Living and dying for Christ is the theme of our two sections.

III. A Christ-Centered Life of Grace

A. My Earnest Expectation and Hope (1:19-26)

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, // Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of those that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. St. Patrick’s Breastplate

Notice Paul says essentially this: *“I don’t want to be ashamed – I want Christ to be magnified in me. Whether that happens by my life or by my death is immaterial. The important part is that Christ be magnified in me.”*

B. I Press Toward the Goal (3:12-16)

Christ laid hold of Paul so that Paul could become like Christ, so that Paul could become fully _____, fully alive – alive to God and alive to his neighbors. He hasn’t gotten there yet; he hasn’t reached the goal yet. But that is the goal.

IV. Application

A. Sanctification is the Goal (cf. Rom 8:29)

Q. What is Sanctification? Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

Paul writes in Romans 8:29 that *God predestined us to be conformed to the image of His Son*. If you are in Christ, the goal of your life is to be like Christ, to be fully _____.

1. My earnest expectation and hope (1:20)

2. The Fruit of Work (1:22)

To continue to live is to have the fruit of _____. Once we die, our work is complete. But so long as we are alive, we get to work to the glory of God.

3. Forgetting what lies behind (3:13)

To live is _____. So I must forget what lies behind – put aside other identities and goals. That is not who I am any more. Those things no longer define me.

B. Sanctification is Synergistic (cf. 2:12-13)

Sanctification is what theologians call a *synergistic* work. A *synergistic* act is an act in which _____ or more parties work together to accomplish something.

- 1:19 –
- 3:12a –
- 3:12b –
- 3:14 –
- 3:15 –

This means that both *quietism* and *activism* are unbiblical. In sanctification, we are *to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure* (2:12-13).

C. Sanctification is not Glorification (cf. 1:6, 10; 3:10-11, 20-21)

Finally, note that sanctification is incomplete in this life. We will only be made perfect when Christ returns in glory – for to be made perfect is to be like Christ, to be fully _____. So long as we lack our resurrection bodies, we are not complete.

V. Conclusion