

**"CHRIST IN LIFE AND DEATH"****Introduction**

1. Paul has 2 things in mind: Life + Death  
**NB** These are all any man has or will have
2. This is the Christian way to look at our life.  
He speaks as a Christian. This is our example
3. This is what we should pray for daily because it is perfect – the way we should all be.  
[No complaints: prison / sufferings / coming death.  
Only happiness and joy – a good example]  
**DOCTRINE:** This is a sample of the best kind of Christians.  
We should take this as our pattern – Paul is our example – he knew it.  
See 3:17 and 4:9.  
There are 2 things to notice:
  - (i) how we are to think of life: it is "Christ"
  - (ii) how to regard death: it is "gain"  
**SUM:** The Christian life is good here and it is better hereafter. Some of Christ now and much more of Christ in another world.

**1. CHRIST IS OUR LIFE NOW IN THIS WORLD**

- 1) We rely on Christ's work as our only righteousness before God:
  - our legal standing is perfect
  - texts: Philippians 3:8-9
  - OBSERVE:** I was Christ's condemnation; He is my righteousness + will be forever.
  - APPLICATION:** Rest wholly on what Christ has done
- 2) We desire no pleasure more than to enjoy Christ's love:
  - there is love between us and Christ
  - texts: Galatians 2:20 (crucified / alive / loved)
  - it is experienced: Ephesians 3:16-19
  - OBSERVE:** It has 2 effects
    - (i) we shun worldly pleasure ("love not the world") and
    - (ii) we long to experience more of Christ's love

- 3) We understand that even now we are in union and fellowship with Christ:
  - we are united to Christ, married to him
  - texts: Ephesians 5:25, 30, 31-32
  - "of his flesh and of his bones"!
  - ILLUSTRATION:** as a man and his wife are one, so are we. This is a fact. It cannot be altered.
- 4) We long to see Christ honoured and His gospel believed by all men everywhere
  - our first passion is for His service / glory
  - texts: Philippians 1:18, 20
  - OBSERVE:** This drove Paul all over Europe and it explains the great missionaries, e.g. Livingstone.
  - APPLICATION:** O let this be your spirit and mine.

**2. TO DIE WILL FOR ALL BELIEVERS BE "GAIN"**

- 1) This fact puts Paul into a remarkable state of mind:
  - (i) he wishes to live
  - (ii) and die!  
He is torn in two – pulled in two directions:  
**ILLUSTRATION:** A man at a crossroads: "Which way?"
- 2) The relative value of life and death is made clear: death for all believers is "far better" (v.23) than life  
Explain: (i) in life: some of Christ  
(ii) in death: far more of Christ  
**ILLUSTRATION:**
  - (i) Life: Christ + sufferings, trials, harsh words of men, bad reputation
  - (ii) Death: Christ with none of these sorrows: Christ seen, heard, near in all his glory, giving us heaven.**APPLICATION:** This is how we are to view life and death as believers.
- 3) So death is to be reckoned "far better":
  - (i) he will wipe away our tears
  - (ii) he will feed us with heavenly manna
  - (iii) he will lead us to living fountains

(iv) we shall see the Triune God

(v) we shall be in eternity, which is an unchanging state.

## **CONCLUSION**

All this is set before us in the Lord's Supper: "till he come":

(i) to take us to glory

(ii) to raise our body in the Great Day

"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain!"

Amen! "Even so, come, Lord Jesus".

### **PSALM**

**42: 8 – 11**

**63: 1 – 6**

**106: 44 – 48**