

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. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:20-21 (NIV)

Work To Do

What eager hope and expectation do you have for your life? It is my eager hope and expectation that I will serve you well. I want to do the work that you have given me to do for you. I want to bear an abundance of fruit for your kingdom and your glory. I don't ever want to look back from heaven with regret to wasted opportunities that I had to serve you while I was living on the earth. I want to be able to hear you say to me, "well done good and faithful servant". I want to live a life that is pleasing in your sight. **These are very good desires that you have in your heart.** I believe that they come from you. **Yes, these desires do come from me.**

What do you think will make you able to bear an abundance of fruit for me? I know that only you can make me able to bear fruit for your kingdom and your glory. Apart from you I can do nothing. You have given me gifts, talents, and abilities that you will no doubt use. But, it would be a terrible mistake for me to rely on anything or anyone other than you. **So, you won't be relying on yourself to bear fruit for my kingdom and glory?** No, I won't, I've tried that before and that approach does not work. You want me to join you in the work that you have given me to do for you. You will give me your help to do everything that you ask me to do for you. **Yes, I will.**

Why will you need my help to do what I ask you to do for me? You have this habit of giving me tasks that are far larger than I can handle by myself. **Yes, I do and do you know why that is?** There is one thing you want me to do and there is one thing you want me to know. **What's that?** You want me to rely on you. **Yes, I do.** You want me to know that you are the one that is helping me to bear fruit for you. **Yes, I do.**

How much time do you think that you have to serve me in this life of yours? Life is short. It is like a snap of the fingers or a blink of the eye. Life is racing by faster than I could ever imagine. **So, your days are short and they are numbered, aren't they?** Yes, they are. **What does the shortness of your life and limited number of days suggest to you?** I need your wisdom to know how to use my time. I need to be focused on the work that you have given me to do for you. I need to live in close communion with you so that I can hear your voice and be guided by you in the work that you have given me to do for you. **Yes, you are right.**

Why do you want to serve me? I want to serve you because I love you. **There is no other reason?** No, there is not. It is my joy to serve you because I love you. It is my desire to bear fruit for your kingdom and glory because I love you. I want to make the best use of the time you have given to me because I love you. When my time is up and I come to live forever in heaven with you it will be the happiest day of my life because I love you. I look forward to that day with great eagerness and expectation. **So do I.**

Lord, I would like to keep on following and serving you in this life. I believe that you have given me important work to do for you. I want to bear fruit for your kingdom and glory. Then I will be ready to come to live forever in heaven with you. Amen

Life *To Live Is Christ*

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. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

NIV Philippians 1:20-21

Life *To Live Is Christ*

as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

ESV Philippians 1:20-21

Life *Living For Christ*

For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.

NLT Philippians 1:20-21

Life *To Live Is Christ*

according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

NKJV Philippians 1:20-21

Life *Living Is Christ*

It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.

NRSV Philippians 1:20-21

Life *I'm Christ's Messenger*

I can hardly wait to continue on my course. I don't expect to be embarrassed in the least. On the contrary, everything happening to me in this jail only serves to make Christ more accurately known, regardless of whether I live or die. They didn't shut me up; they gave me a pulpit! Alive, I'm Christ's messenger; dead, I'm his bounty. Life versus even more life! I can't lose.

MSG Philippians 1:20-21

Life *To Live Is Christ*

This is in keeping with my own eager desire and persistent expectation and hope, that I shall not disgrace myself nor be put to shame in anything; but that with the utmost freedom of speech and unfailing courage, now as always heretofore, Christ (the Messiah) will be magnified and get glory and praise in this body of mine and be boldly exalted in my person, whether through (by) life or through (by) death. For me to live is Christ [His life in me], and to die is gain [the gain of the glory of eternity].

AMP Philippians 1:20-21

Life *Living Means Opportunities For Christ*

For I live in eager expectation and hope that I will never do anything that will cause me to be ashamed of myself but that I will always be ready to speak out boldly for Christ while I am going through all these trials here, just as I have in the past; and that I will always be an honor to Christ, whether I live or whether I must die. For to me, living means opportunities for Christ, and dying—well, that's better yet!

TLB Philippians 1:20-21

Life *To Live Is Christ*

according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

NASB Philippians 1:20-21

Life *Living Is Christ*

I expect and hope that I will not fail Christ in anything but that I will have the courage now, as always, to show the greatness of Christ in my life here on earth, whether I live or die. To me the only important thing about living is Christ, and dying would be profit for me.

NCV Philippians 1:20-21

To Live Is Christ

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Life – Philippians 1:20-21

In Context: *Read Philippians 1*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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. | For | to me, | to live | is Christ | and | to die | is gain. Philippians 1:20-21

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, I would like to keep on following and serving you in this life. I believe that you have given me important work to do for you. I want to bear fruit for your kingdom and glory. Then I will be ready to come to live forever in heaven with you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What do you eagerly hope, expect and believe that your life will accomplish for Jesus Christ?

How does your life have a singular desire, purpose and focus on following and serving Jesus Christ?

When has it taken courage for you to keep on honoring, exalting and serving Jesus Christ?

What might you regret if you don't passionately focus your life on loving, following and serving Jesus Christ?

How is Jesus Christ bearing fruit through your life for His kingdom and His glory?

Why is it a difficult choice to choose between continuing to serve Christ or going to live in heaven with Him now?

What ministry has Jesus Christ given you to do for Him right now before you go to live in heaven with Him?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Keep your life focused on loving, following and serving Jesus Christ until the day you go to meet Him face to face.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that Jesus Christ has given you important work to do for Him until the day you go to meet Him face to face.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how your life is focused on loving, following and serving Jesus Christ.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you focus your life on loving, following and serving Jesus Christ so that you can bear fruit for Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, help me to bear fruit for your kingdom and glory until I come to live forever in heaven with you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I bear fruit for your kingdom and glory as I love, follow and serve you today?
