

A Life Well Spent

Philippians 1:20-30

📖 Philippians 1:20 (NIV84) “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.”

The foundation of a life well spent.

📖 Philippians 1:21 (NIV84) “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

- If for me to live is **money**, to die is to **leave it all behind**. (Matt 6:19-20)

📖 Matthew 6:19–20 (NLT) “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.”

- If for me to live is **fame**, to die is to **be forgotten**. (Ecc 9:5, James 4:14)

📖 Ecclesiastes 9:5 (NLT) “The living at least know they will die, but the dead know nothing. They have no further reward, nor are they remembered.”

📖 James 4:14b (NLT) “...Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone.”

- If for me to live is **pleasure**, to die is to **reap destruction**. (Gal 6:7-8, Romans 8:12-13)

📖 Galatians 6:7–8 (NIV84) “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

📖 Romans 8:12–13 (NIV84) “Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die...”

📖 John 11: 25-26 (NIV84) “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

The conflict in a life well spent.

📖 Philippians 1:22–26 (NIV84) “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.”

📖 2 Corinthians 5:1 (NLT) “For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.”

📖 Luke 23:43 (NIV84) “Jesus answered him [the thief], “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

📖 John 14:1–3 (NIV84) “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

The blueprint for a life well spent.

📖 Philippians 1:27–28 (NIV84) “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.”

📖 Philippians 1:29–30 (NIV84) “For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for Him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.”

📖 John 16:33 (NIV84) “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Digging Deeper: Paul was courageous in the face of uncertainty (even death) and absolutely SOLD OUT to the cause of Christ. Are you? Are you committed to making your life matter for Jesus? If not, what are you spending your life on? How do you view suffering differently than Paul did?

