

Philippians



**TO LIVE IS CHRIST, TO
DIE IS GAIN**

**Aron Osborne
September 20, 2015**

Philippians

Philippians 1:19-30

Philippians

“Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed,

~ Philippians 1:19-30

Philippians

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.* If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall

~ Philippians 1:19-30

Philippians

choose I cannot tell. I am hard
pressed between the two. *My
desire is to depart and be with
Christ, for that is far better.* But
to remain in the flesh is more
necessary on your account.
Convinced of this, I know

~ Philippians 1:19-30

Philippians

that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. *Only let your manner of life be worthy of*

~ Philippians 1:19-30

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the gospel of Christ, so that
whether I come or am absent, I
may hear of you that you are
standing firm in one spirit, with
one mind *striving side by side* for
the faith of the gospel, and not
frightened in anything by

~ Philippians 1:19-30

Philippians

your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. *For it has been granted to you* that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for,

~ Philippians 1:19-30

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his sake, engaged in the same
conflict that you saw I had and
now hear that I still have.”

~ Philippians 1:19-30

Philippians

I. Two “Jesus First” Affirmations

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1. In Christ life is good, but death is far better! (vv. 19-26)

“...I know that *through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ* this will turn out for my deliverance...”

~ Philippians 1:19

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“Alive, I'm Christ's messenger;
dead, I'm his bounty. Life
versus even more life! I can't
lose.”

~ Eugene Peterson
The Message

Philippians

“If I come out of this prison alive, it means I get to keep on laboring for Jesus. That’s good. But honestly, I am hard pressed to choose between staying here with you, or go be with Jesus, because frankly, I would rather

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depart and be with Jesus. That is far better! Death means I will fully possess everything that is mine in Jesus. Death means my sanctification is complete! Death means the pain, the trials, the suffering, the anxieties, and

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the former things will all be
swallowed up and I will
immediately see my Jesus face
to face. Oh Philippians, death is
far better! But for now, for a little
while longer, I believe I will
remain for your progress,

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for your joy in your faith in Jesus.
Philippians, I will remain and
continue a service driven life for
you.”

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“For to me to live is to
hunt, go to the baths, and
party!”

~ Frank Thielman
The NIV Application Commentary, pg. 89

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“..If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life

~ 1 Corinthians 15:17-19, 32

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we are of all people most to
be pitied...if the dead are not
raised, 'Let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die.'

~ 1 Corinthians 15:17-19, 32

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- 1. In Christ life is good, but death is far better! (vv. 19-26)**
- 2. I will live here like I belong there! I enjoin you to do the same (vv. 27-30)**

“Oh, if this conviction were fixed in our minds, that persecutions are to be reckoned among God’s benefits, what progress would be made in the doctrine of godliness! But more will be

~ John Calvin
Calvin’s Commentaries, pg. 243

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found who will order God and His
gifts to be gone, rather than
embrace the cross readily when
it is offered to them. Woe, then,
to our stupidity!”

~ John Calvin
Calvin's Commentaries, pg. 243

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“I’ve noticed that God welcomes and even craves our prayers but continues to decline to put a suggestion box outside his office...we subtly declare, “When God starts performing

~ Ramon Presson
When Will My Life Not Suck, pg. 58

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better and my life improves, then
I'll let him back into my life.”

~ Ramon Presson
When Will My Life Not Suck, pg. 58

Philippians

“I don’t know how long it will be before I can see you face to face. So in the meantime, whether I come or I am absent, I want to hear that you are standing firm together, helping each other by striving side by side for your faith

~ Aron Osborne

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in Jesus. Whatever happens, I want to hear that in all things you are walking worthy of Jesus.

You're going to need to strengthen one another so that you are not frightened by anything coming from your

~ Aron Osborne

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opponents. And beyond persecution, you're going to need grace to keep loving one another in unity. Philippians, you don't do this in your own strength. None of us are strong enough in our flesh. You stand firm,

~ Aron Osborne

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you stand side by side for your faith in Jesus Christ in one spirit, the one and only Spirit; the Holy Spirit. Dear Philippians, it has been granted to you for the sake of Jesus that you believe in Him, but that you also suffer for his

~ Aron Osborne

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sake. For his sake, Philippians,
for Jesus! What a privilege, so,
unite together in love toward
every Jesus hater in Philippi, and
one another.”

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is gain!**

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