

Outlook

TO LIVE IS CHRIST
TO DIE IS GAIN

Philippians 1:21

Welcome to our 2nd week of reading through the Bible book of Philippians.

In last week's passage we saw that much good fruit was being grown in the life of the Philippian Church, including: thankfulness; joy; hope; pure-heartedness; love, and; blamelessness.

In today's passage Paul builds on this already rich list and shows us how a Christian disciple can experience deep joy even in the midst of the greatest troubles of life, and in the face of death too. It's summed up in his phrase, "*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*" (1:21)

Today's passage never suggests there is anything nice about times of trial, but it does show us that if Christ truly becomes our central focus in all our doings we can expect to find his joy at all times and in all places.

A Collect for this Week

*Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve
you with reverence and know your peace at our lives'
end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Philippians 1:12-26

12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. **13** As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. **14** And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. **16** The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defence of the gospel. **17** The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. **18** But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, **19** for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. **20** 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. **21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **22** If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour 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 boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

John 14:1-7

1 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. **2** My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that 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.

4 You know the way to the place where I am going.'

5 Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

6 Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes

to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my

Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

Harvest Sunday: 4th October



- *Just one service at 10:30am, celebrating Harvest/Feast of Tabernacles
- *Book your place at the special lunch [via ChurchSuite](#) or speak to Sue - tickets just £6/person & under 10s eat for free (still need to book)

Safeguarding at Eastleigh Parish



One way we can show our love in action is by doing all we can to be a safe church for everyone. There's some helpful online training that we now need to ask everyone who serves in any capacity within this parish to complete. Mike/Sue will be in touch with more info soon.

PCC Update



Our PCC met together on Monday 14th Sept for one of our regular meetings. On the agenda this time was much important & ongoing business, including:

- A time of prayer, in which we gave thanks to God for all the great things he's doing in people's lives at the moment;
- Helpful updates on vital governance issues such as training opportunities for PCC members, safeguarding & data protection, and;
- A detailed description from Steve, our treasurer, as to all that's going on with the finances of the parish.

In addition to these regular items, we also spent some time talking about the long term future of both the All Saints' and St Francis' buildings. For many years we have looked at various ideas for revitalising our sites/buildings, and the PCC are keen to revisit this discussion again. With this in mind, we have taken the decision to work with a firm of architects who have a proven track record of working with churches similar to ours as well as with the CoE authorities. One step will be for them to lead us through a feasibility study - to see just what might be possible with our two sites. But before this can happen, we need to apply for a particular grant from the Church Commissioners which would then pay for this initial study. We'll be sure to keep you posted of any developments. Details of the firm we plan to work with can be found at <https://kiloa.co.uk/> If you're interested in being a part of this process, let Ian know.

Philippians 1:12-26

*"The way to know joy in every circumstance is
to know Christ is in every circumstance."*

Barry Cooper, Discipleship Explored

- * The centre of our lives
- * Christ; our hope in life
- * Christ; our hope in death

Philippi Today



Photo from TripAdvisor.com

Keep in Touch



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