

# THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

## PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 1:22-26

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### “THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN” – PART 4

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

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SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Joy, Peace, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living**

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### THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN

1.)	<b>Recognizing</b> what's under your skin	vs. 8-11
2.)	<b>Realizing</b> the centrality of your mission	vs. 12-14
3.)	<b>Rejoicing</b> in the face of everything	vs. 15-21

We left off with that profound declaration of Paul's in:

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

That deep understanding of reality is what empowered Paul to live as he did in this world.

This could very well become the motto of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Christian.

And we learned last time that...

having Jesus now is the ultimate fulfillment in this life, "But wait there's more" – we learned also that upon death, the Christian enters into the very presence of God Himself, accepted, approved and beloved!

It is tough in one breath, in few words, but the aged apostle now tells us where his affections lie.

### Philippians 1:20-21

**20** 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**. **21** For to me, to **live is Christ**, and **to die is gain**.

### Philippians 1:22-26

But if I **live on** in the flesh, this will mean **fruit from my labor**; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. **23** For I am **hard-pressed** between the two, having a **desire to depart** and be with Christ, which is **far better**. **24** Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more **needful** for you. **25** And **being confident** of this, I know that I shall **remain** and **continue** with you all for your **progress** and **joy** of faith, **26** that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

## THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN

4.) **Remaining** faithful to the end

vs. 22-26

4a.) By being a wise investor

vs. 22

22 But **(if) I live on** in the flesh, this will mean **fruit from my labor**; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

**Paul sees himself as an investor in eternal things.**

22a But **(if) I live on** in the flesh,

The flesh being this human **body**, this **tool** built for God's uses and God's purposes.

"as opportunity presents – I will capitalize on whatever comes my way"

### Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service**. **2** And do not be **conformed to this world**, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may **prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God**.

There is Power in Surrendering Your Body to Jesus

**Romans 6:18-19**

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. **19** I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

**THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN IS SERIOUS ABOUT  
REMAINING FAITHFUL TO THE END**

**By Being A Wise Investor in What Will Last**

22b this will mean **fruit** from my labor;

**fruit** *karpo/β karpos*, *kar-pos´*; that which is picked or plucked or taken away. the harvesting of that which is desirable. (this is the root word for the Greek ‘har-pad-zo’ – to take up and away. it’s the Greek word for the Latin word, ‘rapture’.

It implies that what is done for Jesus and the Kingdom is the type of an investment that has eternal payback.

**John 15:5,16a**

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing... **16** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain.

Christian, you will never be able to grow “fruit” for God unless you’re planted in some garden somewhere.

**Paul was Careful About Being A Wise Investor**

**Mark 8:35-37**

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. **36** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? **37** Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

This Reveal’s an Issue / **Dilemma** in Paul’s Life

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And I pray that it’s my **Issue**, my dilemma too

22c yet **what (which)** I shall choose I cannot tell.

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

*Heaven was beyond a desire to Paul. It was more than a reality,  
It was the burning, 24/7 passion of his heart, his mind, and because that was true -  
he used his body, a tool, to accomplish what God wanted from him.*

*Are you teaching your son that God is the ultimate priority?*

*Are you training your daughter how to make the right decisions?*

*Are you teaching your children that God is more important than soccer?*

How should I be living / investing in light of eternity?

- 1.) Are my **activities** honoring to God?
- 2.) What takes up the bulk of my **thinking**?
- 3.) What do my **resources** say about my faith?
- 4.) How do I spend my **leisure** time?

## **THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN REMAINING FAITHFUL TO THE END**

4b.) By living larger than life

vs. 23-24

**23** For I am **hard-pressed** between the two, **having a desire to depart** and be with Christ, which is **far better**. **24** Nevertheless to **remain** in the flesh is more **needful** for you.

**These two verses just might summarize**

the psyche of a mature Christian perfectly.

**How so?**

**As we spiritually develop and grow, we, at the same time** begin to see less value in the material things of this world Until we ultimately mature to the point where Paul is at here.

## That Life is Actually Larger than What We Assumed

### 2 Corinthians 12:1-4

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: **2** I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago - - whether **in** the body I do not know, or whether **out** of the body I do not know, God knows - - such a one was **caught up to the third heaven**. **3** And I know such a man - - whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows - - **4** how he was **caught up into Paradise** and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

### So then, This is no small admission.

Coming from a man who had actually seen heaven and its glories, for him to be open to prospect of staying here says allot to us regarding his willingness to serve others.

### He is willing to postpone his going to heaven if it

means that others might grow closer to Jesus Christ.

### Am I willing to postpone my going to heaven if it

means that others might grow closer to Jesus Christ.

“If heaven is your ever-present reality – then there is nothing that can steal your joy away from you or rob you of your assurance!”

### Verse 23a

**hard-pressed** *sune÷cw sunecho*, to squeeze or to hold together, the image is a man walking into a steep canyon until his shoulders are being compressed, to be perplexed, afflicted, preoccupied. be taken away with, or to be held tight.

### We have another example of him being HARD-PRESSED?

#### Paul’s “Agape” love for his Jewish brethren

### Romans 9:1-4

I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, **2** that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. **3** For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, **4** who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;

**23b** having a desire to **depart** and be with Christ, which is **far better** (grk: much, more, better)

**having a desire ejpiqumi÷a epithumia**, ep-ee-thoo-mee´-ah; is a driving passion for. to pursue after or to long for with delight. To be living for that thing.

but “**having a Desire**” is to **always**, at **all** times, **constantly** have this desire.

## **Paul revealed this reality of his to the Corinthians**

### **2 Corinthians 5:6-8**

So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. **7** For we walk by faith, not by sight. **8** We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

**ejpiqumi÷a epithumia**, ep-ee-thoo-mee´-ah

**From this word we can see into Paul’s motivation.**

For living life as he did, He was possessed, controlled, obsessed with seeing God.

**Every Christian I know that has even “the smallest”** revelation of God –  
*they desire to be with Him.*

**“Life is what we are alive to”,**

what excites you and draws you in, what is it that holds your attention? - Whatever or whoever it is - that is your God!

### **Verse 23b**

**Depart ajnalu/w analuo**, an-al-oo´-o; to break camp, to move on, to relocate. Mariners used this word to shout out that the ship was departing from the dock. To untie, loosen the moorings. To set sail.

It was a very common word used in various applications.

By mariners / By the courts / By Soldiers

### **2 Timothy 4:6-8**

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my **departure** is at hand. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

**8** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

## 23c To be with Christ = which is **far better**.

### **2 Corinthians 5:1-5**

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2** For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, **3** if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. **4** For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. **5** Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

### **Can You Hear Me Right Now?**

How is it that you can hear me? Physically, my ears are capturing the sound waves and my brain is interpreting the pattern and applying meaning to the sounds that I am hearing. But what is the end result? - - Spiritually, Invisibly, my conscience is greatly affected by the reception of the information.

### **This is Teleonomics**

### **This is a wonderful reality – hang on to your hats;**

once we are “born of the Spirit”, that is “born again”, the Christian can never lose consciousness with Jesus Christ – never, Because it is a spiritual connection. You will never be separated from God, ever!

### **THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN REMAINING FAITHFUL TO THE END**

4c.) By serving those near to us

vs. 25-26

**25** And **being confident** of this, I know that I shall **remain** and **continue** with you all for your **progress** and **joy of faith**, **26** that your **rejoicing** for me may be more abundant **in** Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

### **1 Corinthians 4:1-2**

Let a man so consider us, as **servants of Christ** and **stewards** of the mysteries of God. **2** Moreover it is required in **stewards** that one be found **faithful**.

**faithful oikono/moß oikonomos**, *oy-kon-om'-os*; from 3624 and the base of 3551; a house-distributor (i.e. manager), or overseer, i.e. an employee in that capacity; by extension, a fiscal agent (treasurer); figuratively, a preacher (of the Gospel): — chamberlain, governor, steward.

**Usefulness** and **fruitfulness** is a comforting reality to any servant of God and when our **Usefulness** and **fruitfulness** has come to an end, we look up to the finish-line,

**2 Timothy 4:7**

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

*End of Study*

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