



THE MIND OF CHRIST AND THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Phil. 2:5, 1:26

“When Life Gets in the Way”

Phil. 2:5 **Let this mind be in you**, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Phil. 1:21 For to me **to live is Christ**, and **to die is gain**.

22 But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet **what I shall choose I wot not**.

23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, **having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ**; which is far better:

24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

25 And having this confidence, **I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith**;

26 That **your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me** by my coming to you again.

I. THE PERCEPTION OF THE CONCEPT

Phil. 2:5 **Let this mind be in you**, which was also in Christ Jesus:

A. The Imperative – “Let this mind...”

B. The Influence – “...be in you...”

C. The Imitation – “...which was also in Christ Jesus:”

Rom. 6:4 1 Cor. 11:1 Phil. 3:17

II. THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

Mt. 6:10, 26:42

A. The Fellowship in the Gospel, Phil. 1:3-7

B. The Force Within the Gospel, Phil. 1:9-11

1. Love Abounding, 1:9

2. Love Approved, 1:10

3. Love Affected, 1:11

C. The Fall-out from, and for, the Gospel, Phil. 1:12-20

1. The Clarity in the Reasoning, 1:12-13

Invest – Invite

2. The Confidence in the Response, 1:14

3. The Contention and Results, 1:15-17

4. The Consolation and Rejoicing, 1:18-20

- Paul had joy in spite of trouble as long as the gospel advanced;
- Paul rejoiced in spite of detractors as long as Christ is preached.
- Paul was content in spite of death as long as Christ is glorified.

2 Cor. 6:10 **As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing**; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

He never lost his joy no matter how sorrowful his circumstances might have been.

D. The Future due to the Gospel, 1:21-30

1. The Paradox in Living, 1:21-24

Phil. 1:21 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

22 But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

a. The Assurance - The Eternity with Christ

Phil. 1:21 For to me to live *is* Christ, and **to die is gain.**

Phil. 1:22 But if I live in the flesh, **this is the fruit of my labour:** yet what I shall choose I wot not.

- Living = fruitful.
- Being fruitful = laboring for the glory of Christ.
- Choosing life or death = difficulty
- Life = fruitful work.
- Death = gain!

Phil. 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, **and to be with Christ; which is far better:**



Original Word: συνέχω

Transliteration: sunechó

Short Definition: I press together, in a strait, confine, compel, am afflicted with

For to me **to live is** _____, and **to die is** _____.

For to me **to live is fame**, and **to die**
is loss.

For to me **to live is fortune**, and **to die**
is loss.



For to me **to live is power**, and **to die**
is loss.

For to me **to live is career**, and **to die**
is loss.

For to me **to live is fun**, and **to die**
is loss.



For to me **to live is** _____, and **to die**
is LOSS.

For to me **to live is Christ**, and **to die**
is GAIN.

2 Cor. 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, **whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord**:

Original Word: ἀναλύω

Transliteration: analuó

Definition: I unloose, unloose for **departure**, depart, return.

b. The Acceptance – The Earthly for Christ

Phil. 1:21 For to me **to live is Christ...**

1:24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

Col. 3:3 For ye are dead, and your **life** is hid with **Christ** in God.

4 When **Christ, who is our life**, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with **Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- To live = Christ living in me.
- I am in love with Christ = His love captivates me and works to others through me.
- I love you = I want to help you in your relationship with Christ.

2. The Purpose in Living, 1:25-26

1:25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;

26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

a. The Result of Confidence, 1:25

1:25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;

Phil. 1:6 Being **confident** of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Phil. 1:14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing **confident** by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

- My purpose is for Christ to work through me for your growth and joy of faith.
- I have confidence that I shall be with you toward that end.

b. The Rejoicing in Christ, 1:26

1:26 That **your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ** for me by my coming to you again.

I am looking forward to a blessed and fruitful time of fellowship in the near future!

As believers, we should be focused upon two factors for the future:

- One – to be with Christ
- Two – to be faithful and fruitful in building, strengthening and advancing the church.

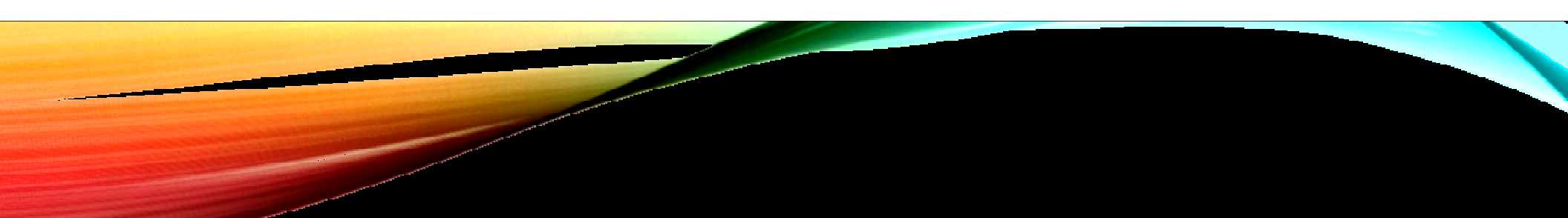
Conclusion

Lu. 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: **for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**

Jn. 10:10 ...I am come that they might have **life**, and that they might **have it more abundantly.**

Rom. 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more **they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)**

Count Zinzendorf – “I have one passion, it is he and he alone...To me living is Christ.”



1 Thess. 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of **faith and love**; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, **we should live together with him.**

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

2 Cor. 5:14 For **the love of Christ constraineth us**; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And *that* he died for all, that **they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him** which died for them, and rose again.