

## HOW CHRIST MAKES LIFE WORTHWHILE

Text: Phil. 1:21

INTRO: In Phil. 1:21, Paul said, “For me to live is Christ...” In Col. 3:4, he said, “Christ... is our life.” For the next few minutes think with me about How Christ Makes Life Worthwhile.

### I. HE GIVES US A CONSCIENCE WE CAN LIVE WITH.

Though we all have sinned, Rom. 3:10, 23, Christ does for us what the Old Testament with its system of animal sacrifice could never fully accomplish.

Heb 9:9, 13-14, It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts & sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience... For if the blood of bulls & goats & the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who thru the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

A. Jesus’ sacrifice provides for the initial cleansing of the sinner who comes to Him in faith, repenting of his sins, & being baptized in water for the remission of those sins.

Heb 10:22, Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

1 Pet. 3:21, ...Baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (NASB)

B. He provides for us to keep a clean conscience by continuing to be obedient to His revealed will.

1 Tim 1:5, 18-19, Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, & from sincere faith... Wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck...

C. He provides for cleansing for the erring Christian.

1 John 1:9, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 8:22, Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

II. JESUS HAS PROVIDED A FAITH WE CAN LIVE BY.

A. "By faith you stand," 2 Cor. 1:24; Rom. 5:1-2

B. We walk by faith, 2 Cor. 5:7

C. We live by faith, Rom. 1:17; Gal. 2:20; Heb. 10:38

III. JESUS HAS GIVEN US A CAUSE WE CAN LIVE FOR.

1 Cor 9:19-23, For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

1 Peter 4:12-14, Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

Mark 8:34-37, When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, & follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake & the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and

loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

#### IV. A COMPANY WE CAN LIVE WITH.

- A. In fellowship with God, 1 John 1:7
- B. We are in association with the best people in the world.  
1 John 1:3, That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:32-35, Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart & one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, & brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, & laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

#### V. A DESTINY WE CAN LIVE TOWARD.

1 Peter 1:3-5, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible & undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God thru faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

CONCLUSION: Note that we began with the statement Paul made in Phil. 1:21 – “For me to live is Christ.” But now let’s note the rest of his sentence – “and to die is gain.” If for us to live is Christ, then also for us, to die is gain. Let us rejoice in the life that God grants us in the world and use it to serve Him, so that we may continue to reach toward that endless, quality life He has promised us in heaven.

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