

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

To Live is Christ

Philippians

1:19-26

1967 - 2017



¹⁸ What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. ¹⁹ For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it* be by life, or by death. 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.



Philippians 1:19

AV

- ¹⁹ For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

ESV

- Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,

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Salvation or Deliverance?

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**For Paul it doesn't
matter what happens
both outcomes =
deliverance.**





Philippians 1:20

- According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed,

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**Paul is waiting a trial and
Paul's confident hope and
expectation is he will NOT be
ashamed of Christ.**

**Are you embarrassed that
you are a Christian?**

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Philippians 1:20

- **but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.**

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v. 20

Is Christ Magnified
in your Body?

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**Will Christ be
honored in your
death?**

**What will your obit
say?**

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Philippians 1:21

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

**Two Distinct &
Critically Important
Messages in 1 Verse**

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**First, Let's Recognize:
Everyone is living
for someone or
something!**

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Live for:

Money
Yourself
Spouse or Children
US Army

Soccer

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**What does
'to live is Christ'
mean & involve?**



“To Live is Christ”

Involves:

His Person

His Work

His Church

His World

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**1) To Live is Christ
begins with the reality
that Jesus is your Savior.**



You believe

- Jesus is the Son of God
- Was born of virgin
- Lived a sinless Life
- Died on a cross for your sins
- Rose from the grave
- Is coming again

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You are NOT living for
Christ

If you have NOT professed
your faith in Christ
through baptism.

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**2) To Live is Christ
necessitates that Christ
is your Lord—he is your
Master.**



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Greek Word for Lord Is

Kryrios |kü'-rē-os

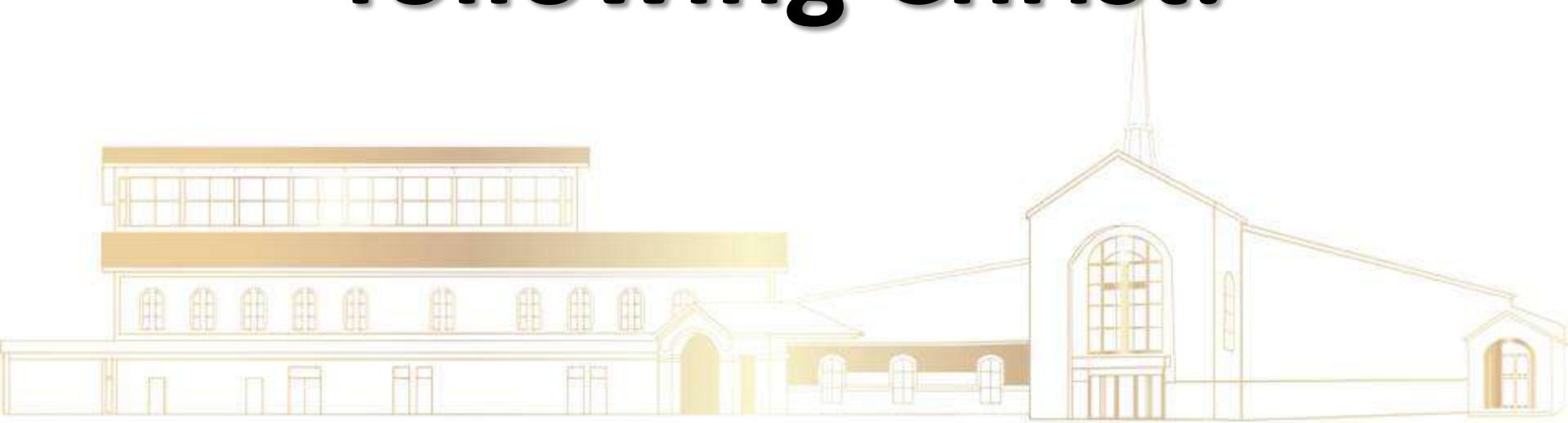
Literally Master

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**3) To Live is Christ
manifests itself in
following Christ.**



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John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice,
and I know them,
and they follow me:

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1 Corinthians 11:1

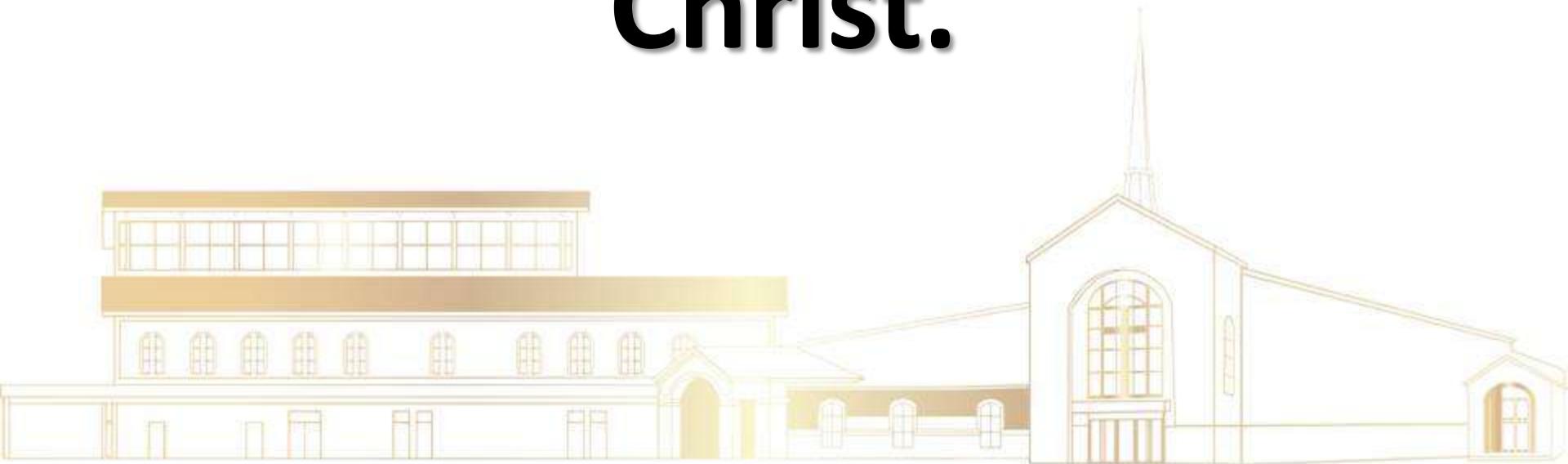
Be ye followers of me,
even as I also *am* [a follower]
of Christ.

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**4) To Live is Christ
requires that you know
Christ.**



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In **Philippians 3:10**

Paul expresses,
A strong desire to know
Christ

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2 Peter 3:18

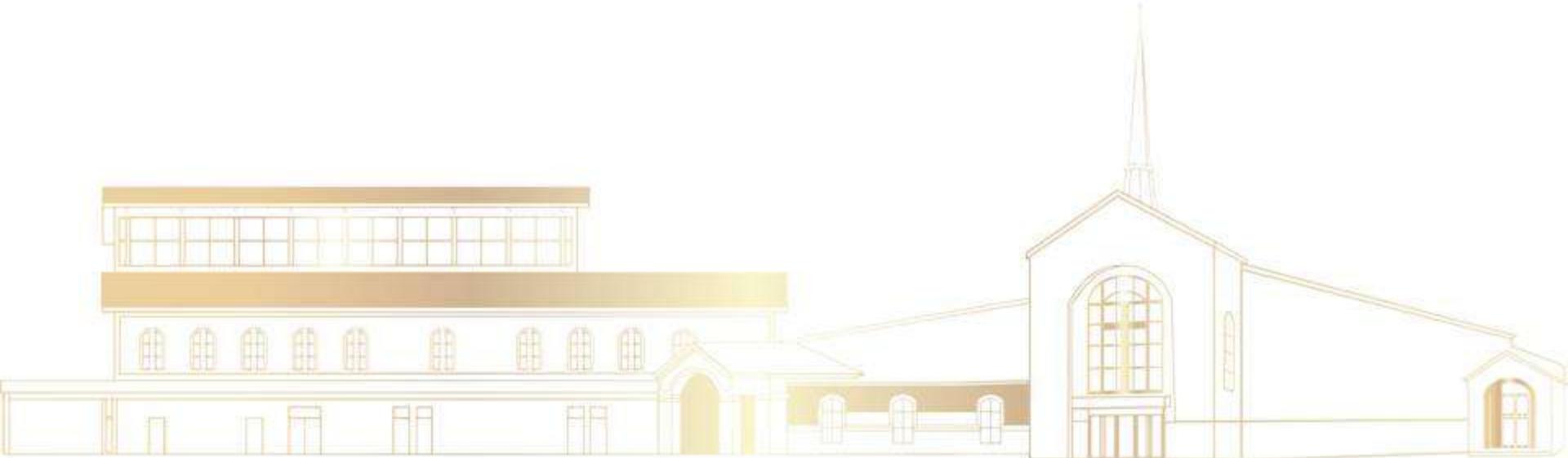
But grow in grace, and in
the knowledge of our
Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ. To him *be* glory both
now and for ever. Amen.

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**5) To Live is Christ is to
live to serve others.**



Mark 10:45 (ESV)

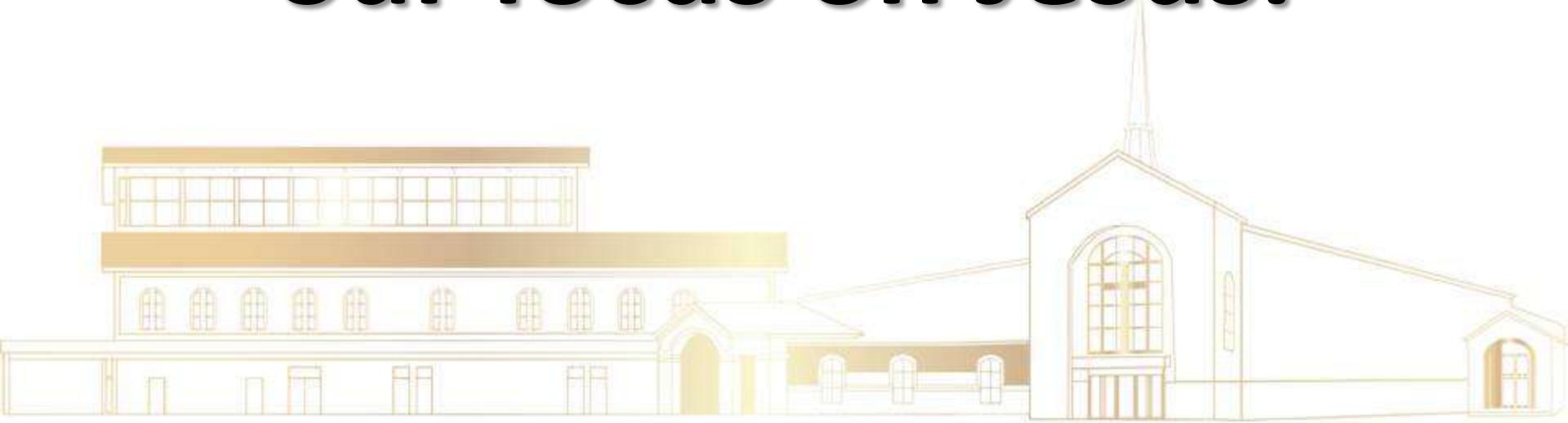
For even the Son of
Man came not to be
served but to serve,
and to give his life as a
ransom for many.”

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**6) To Live is Christ
requires that we keep
our focus on Jesus.**



Hebrews 12:1-2

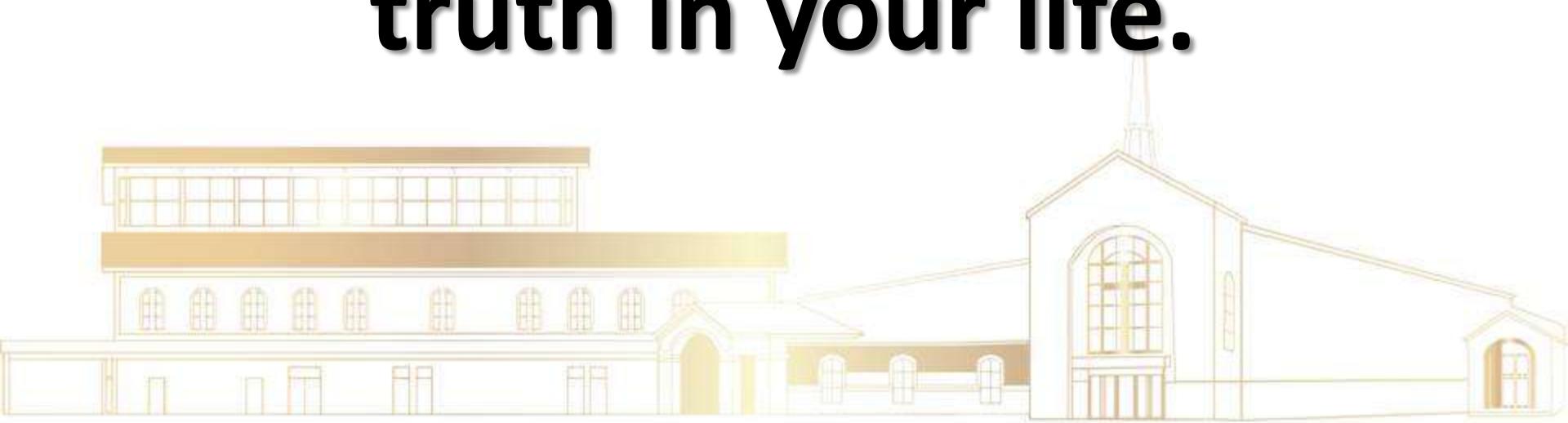
Wherfore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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**7) To Live is Christ means
that His Gospel is the
single most important
truth in your life.**



Mark 16:15 (ESV)

And he said to them,
Go into all the world and
proclaim the gospel to the
whole creation.

The gospel is the only truth Christ has
commanded us to proclaim.

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8) To Live is Christ
focuses on applying the
gospel to every area of
our lives.





Philippians 1:27

ESV

- Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,

KJV

- Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:

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**9) To Live is Christ means
that what he commanded
are the commandments
that we strive to live by
every day.**



Commandments from Christ

What are the two
greatest
commandments
and where are they
found?

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Mark 12:30-31

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment. ³¹ And the second *is* like, *namely* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

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10) To Live is Christ
demands that you make
His Church—an absolute
priority in your life.



Acts 20:28 (NASB96)

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd **the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**

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Paul

- Planted local churches
- Preached in local churches
- Worshipped in local churches
- Gave instructions to local churches
- Wrote letters to local churches
- Appointed elders in local churches
- Prayed for local churches
- Did church discipline w/ local churches

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1 Timothy 3:15

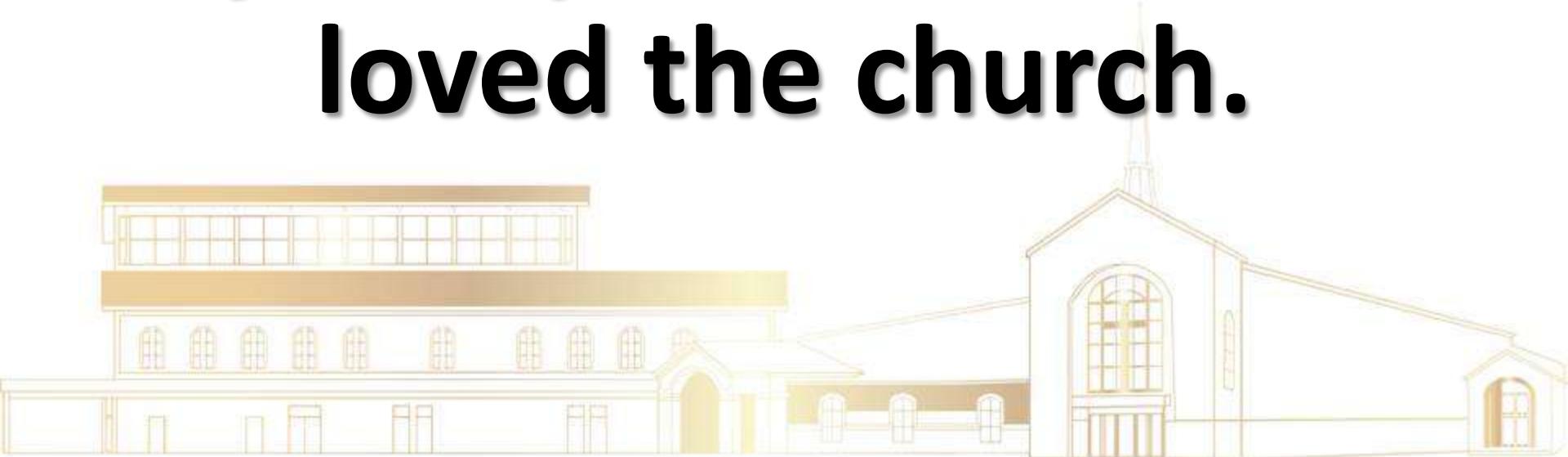
But if I tarry long, that thou
mayest know how thou
oughtest to **behave thyself in**
the house of God, which is
the church of the living God,
the pillar and ground of the
truth.

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**11) To Live is Christ
requires you to love
your spouse as Christ
loved the church.**



There is NO Way

You are living for Christ:

1. When you are not loving your spouse
2. Honoring your parents
3. Obeying your God-ordained authorities
4. Parenting your children

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**12) To Live is Christ
necessitates that you
care about the world
that God loved.**



Christians Care About People & The Planet

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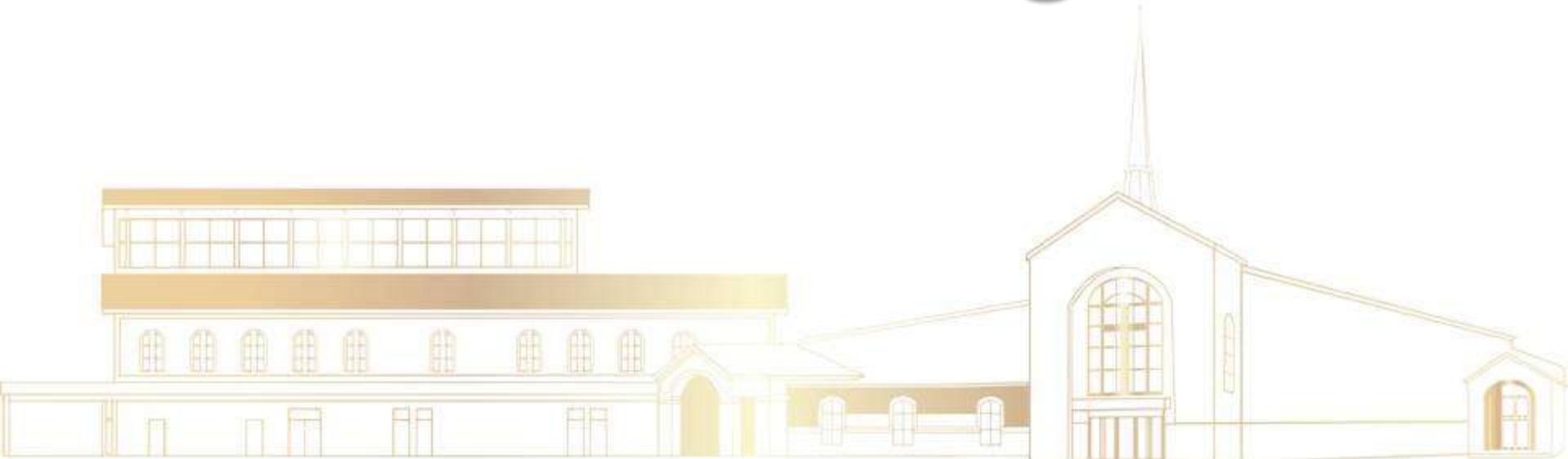
Philippians 1:21

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

Part II

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What must be true for death to be a gain?



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To Die is Gain

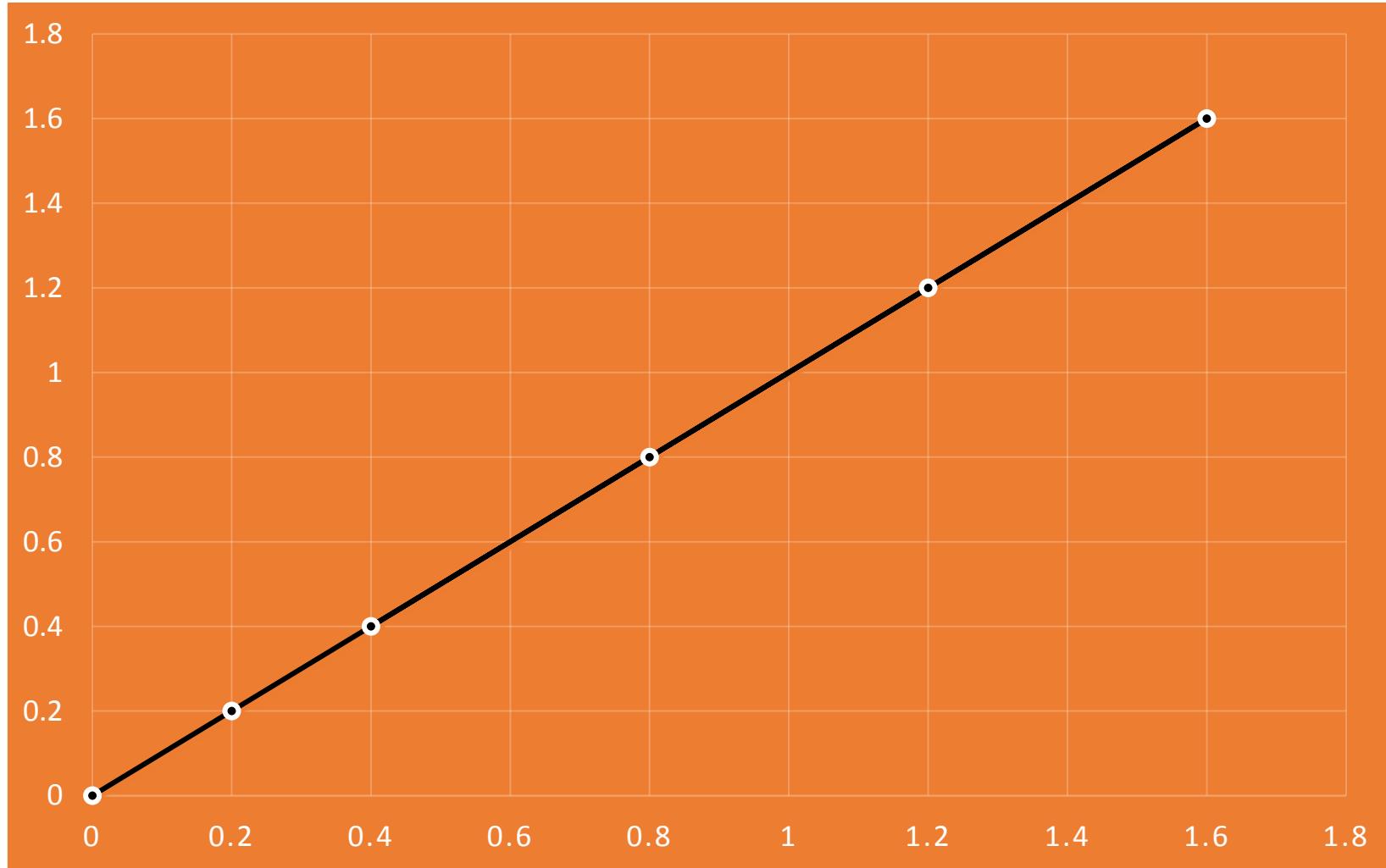
Requires an afterlife—
Paul was positively
convinced that life did not
end when you die.

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I suspect

Gaining in Death



Living for Christ



Philippians 1:22

- **But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labor: yet what I shall choose I know not.**

ESV

- **If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.**

Romans 1:13

Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) **that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.**

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**What will you do
this week that will
render fruit?**





Philippians 1:22

AV

- yet **what I shall choose I know not.**

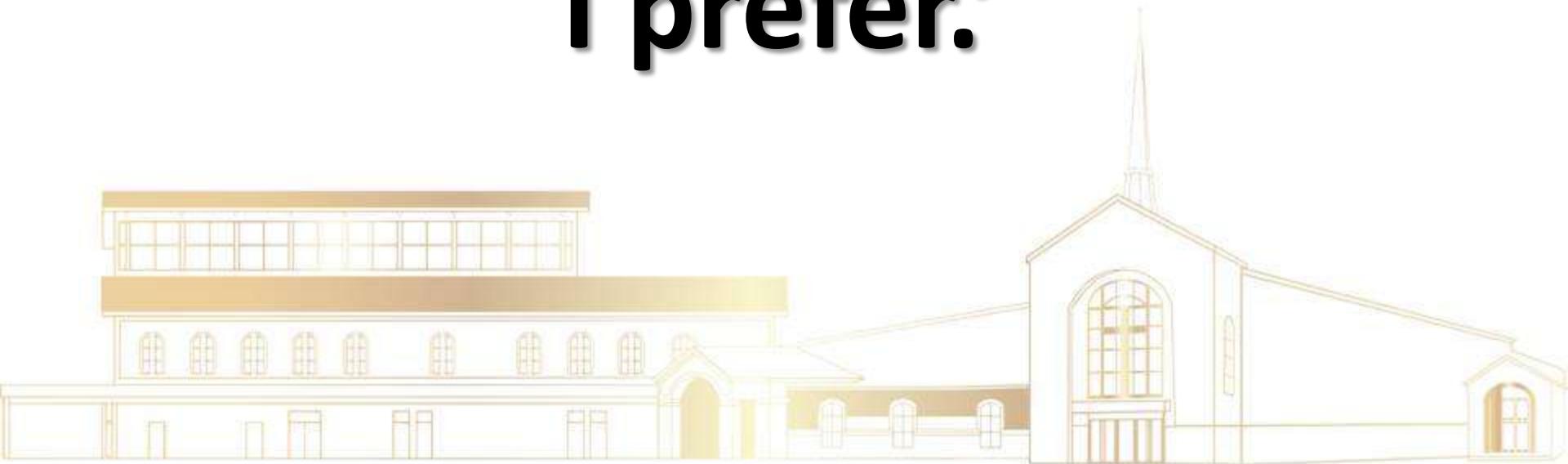
ESV

- **Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.**

**What does Paul mean
by what I shall choose I
know not?**

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**The NET Bible renders it
'yet I don't know which
I prefer.'**





Philippians 1:23

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



Philippians 1:24

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

It is only needful for you to remain here if you are making a difference in lives of others.

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**Notice Paul does not
prefer to stay here just
for the sake of being
alive.**





Philippians 1:25

AV

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

ESV

- Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,



Philippians 1:26

ESV

- so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

NET

- so that what you can be proud of may increase because of me in Christ Jesus, when I come back to you.

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What can we
be proud of?

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