

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

To Die is Gain

Philippians

1:21

1967 - 2017



- 1) To live is Christ begins with the reality that Jesus is your Savior.
- 2) To live is Christ necessitates that Christ is your Lord—he is your Master.
- 3) To live is Christ manifests itself in following Christ's example.
- 4) To live is Christ requires that you know Christ.
- 5) To live is Christ is to live to serve others.
- 6) To live is Christ requires that we keep our focus on Jesus.
- 7) To live is Christ means that His Gospel is the single most important truth in your life.

1967 - 2017



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

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

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

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

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

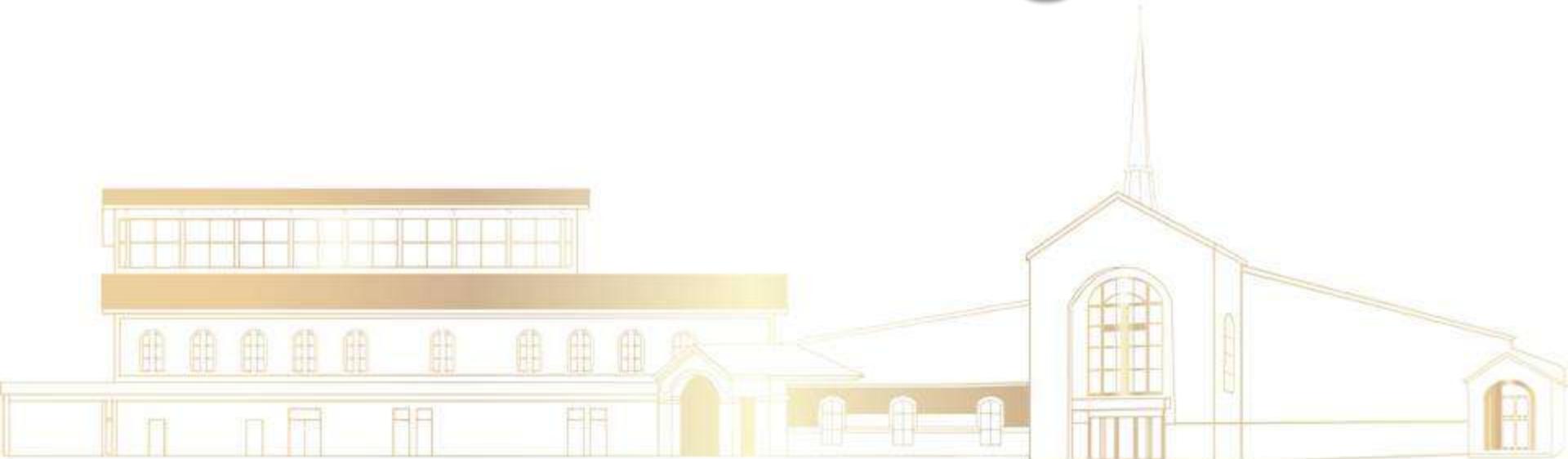


Philippians 1:21

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

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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.

1967 - 2017



Turn Back To 2 Corinthians 12 v. 2-4

1967 - 2017



I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows.³ And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

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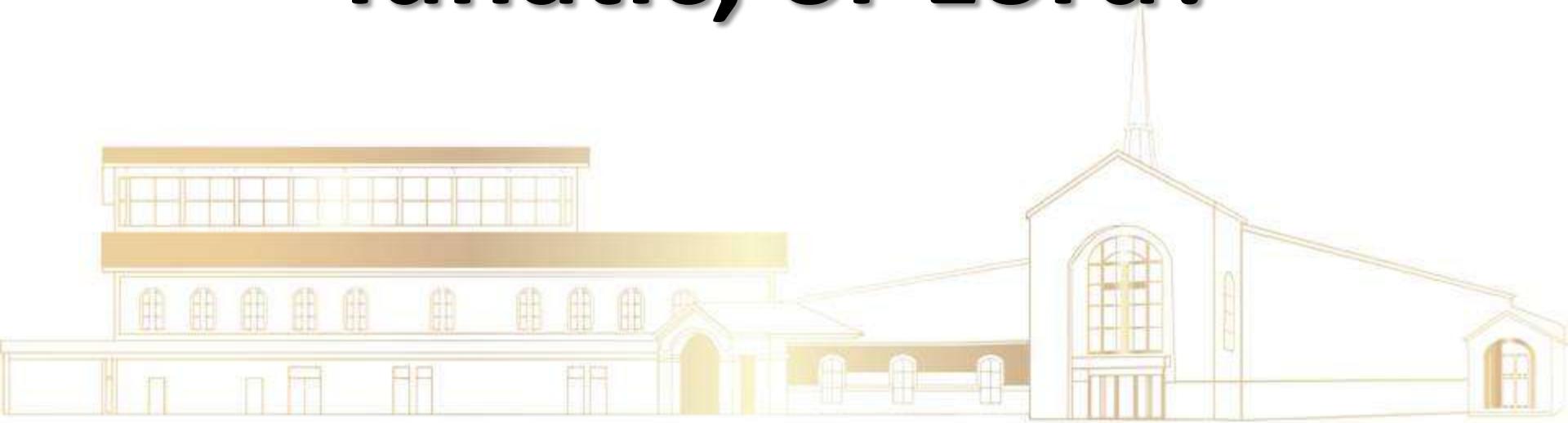
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But I can't see it!
Are we to believe we
live, we die—and that's
the end!?



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**When Jesus said these
words was he lying, a
lunatic, or Lord?**



John 14:1-3

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

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Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Spoken just before his
impending execution:

**"This is the end, but for
me it is the beginning of
life."**

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**Jesus specifically spoke
about a ‘world or age’
to come.**



Mark 10:29-30 (ESV)

Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel,³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

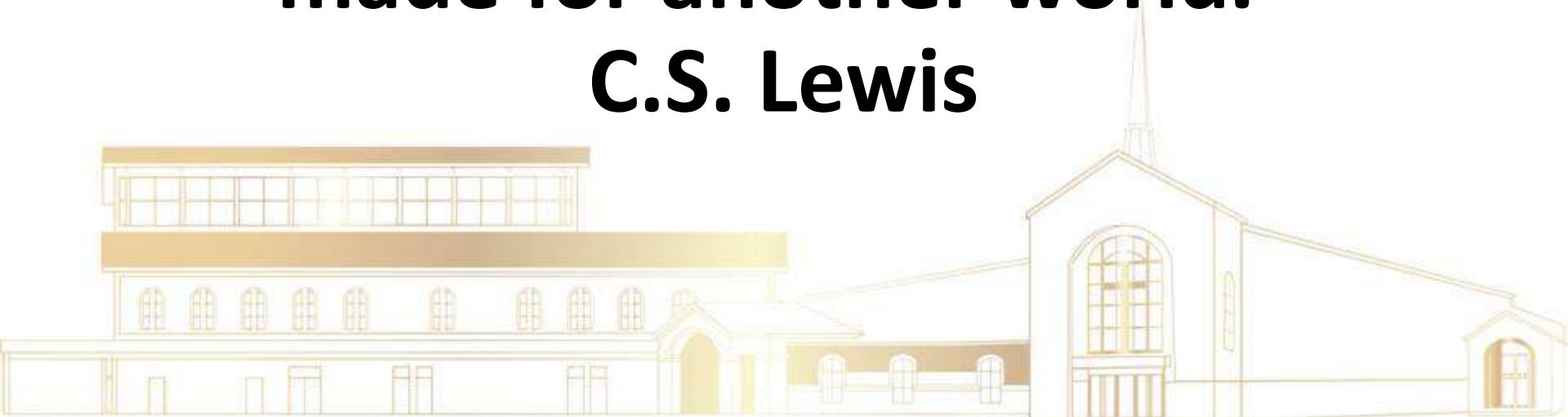
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**“If we find ourselves with a
desire that nothing in this world
can satisfy, the most probable
explanation is that we were
made for another world.”**

C.S. Lewis



2 Peter 3:13 (NKJV)

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells.

1967 - 2017



Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

1967 - 2017



Revelation 21:2

And I saw the holy city, new
Jerusalem, coming down out
of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned
for her husband.

1967 - 2017



Revelation 21:15-16 (NET)

The angel who spoke to me had a golden measuring rod with which to measure the city and its foundation stones and wall.¹⁶ Now the city is laid out as a square, its length and width the same. He measured the city with the measuring rod at fourteen hundred miles (its length and width and height are equal).

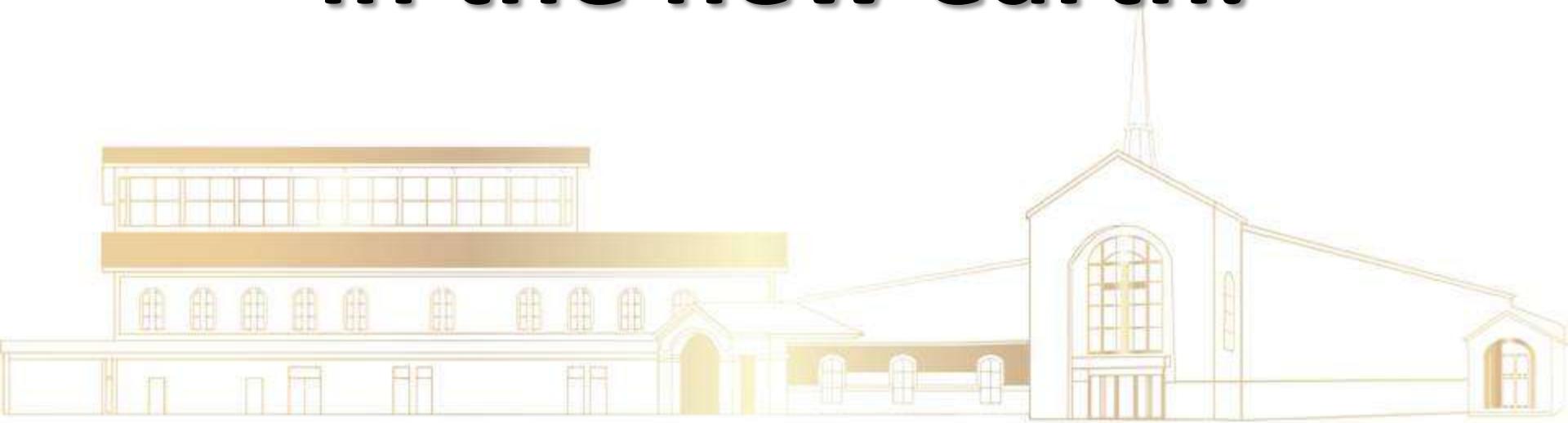
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**Why is this gain?
Nothing will be cursed
in the new earth.**



Revelation 22:3

And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

1967 - 2017



No Curse Means

- No death, disease, or sickness
- No disasters (hurricanes or tornadoes)
- No dementia
- No lying, cheating, adultery, murder, theft
- No fights, arguments, etc.
- No drunkenness

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Why is it gain?

**In the new heaven and
earth all tears will be
wiped away.**



Revelation 21:4

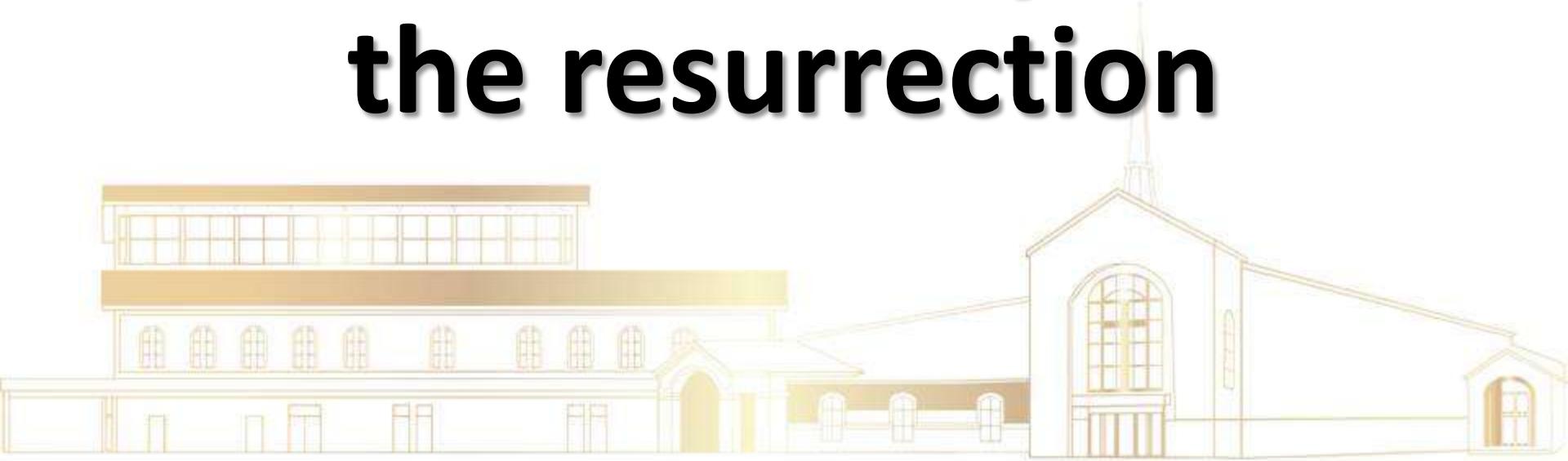
He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

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**On the new earth our
bodies will be glorified
like Jesus' body after
the resurrection**



Jesus' body

- Could eat, drink, & walk
- Was no longer subject to death
- Could be touched
- Could ascend to and through atmosphere

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**We determine the
degree to which death
is gain by our choices on
this earth.**



Matthew 6:19-20 (ESV)

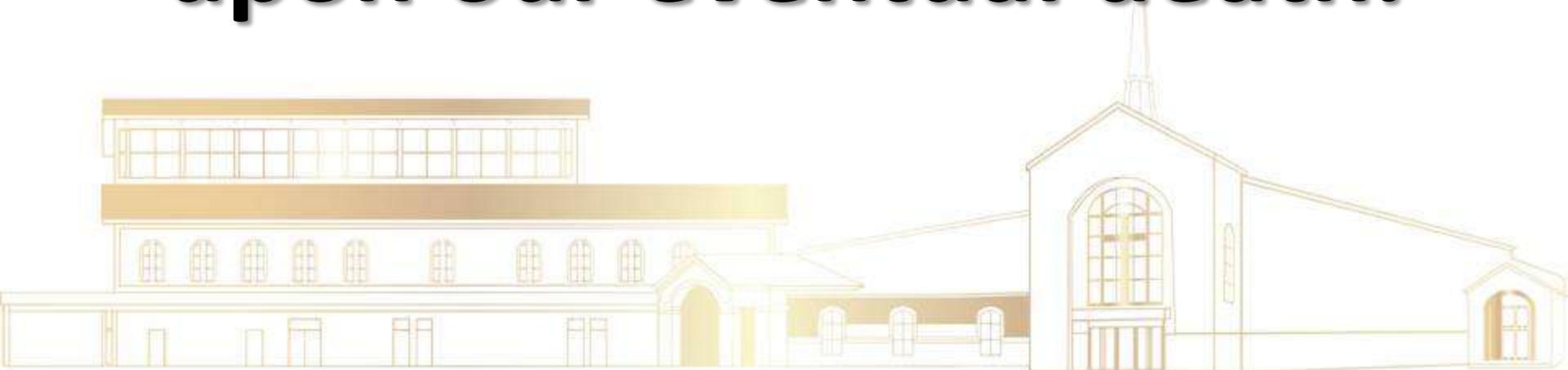
“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

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**Jesus tells us to make
choices on this earth
which impact our gain
upon our eventual death.**



Luke 12:33 (ESV)

Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, **with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.**

1967 - 2017



I suspect

Gaining in Death





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.**

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**Paul speaks with great
intentionality
concerning
'fruitful labor.'**



Romans 1:13

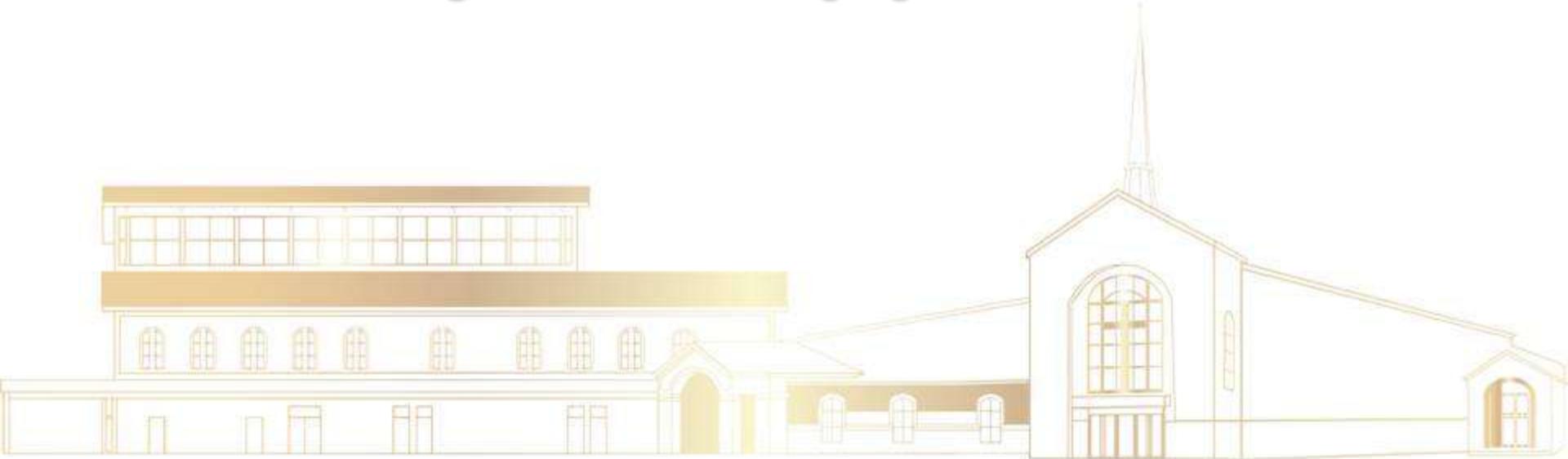
Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) **that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.**

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**Fruitful labor doesn't
just happen.**



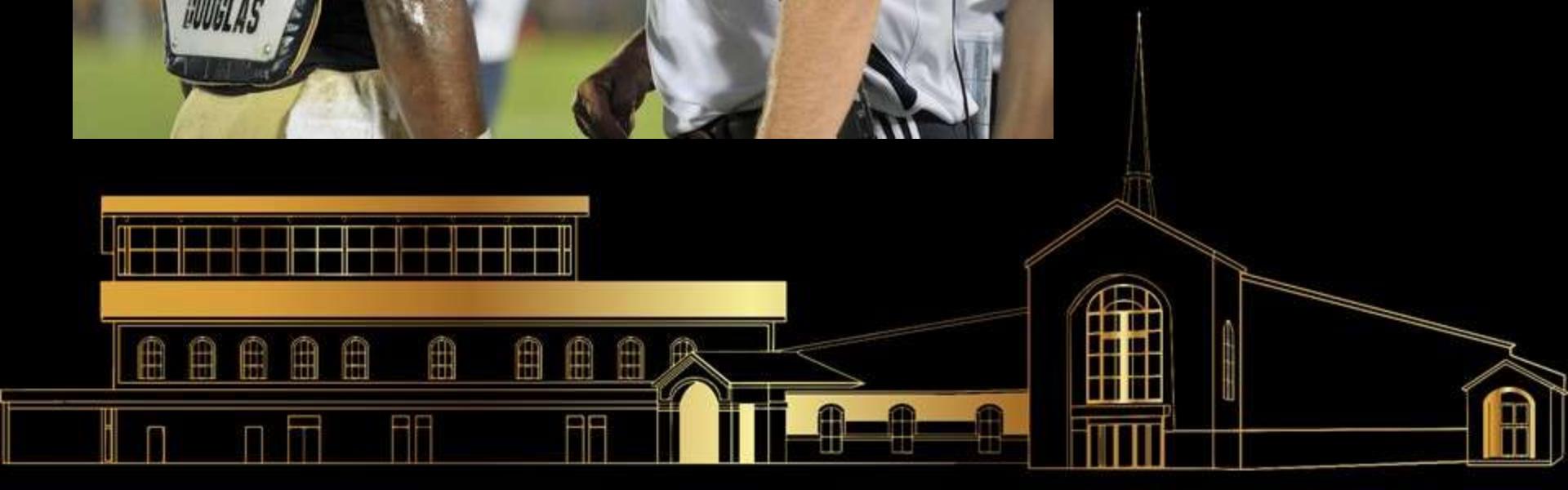
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**What will you do
this week that will
render fruit?**





Let's talk
about
Christians
coaching
sports.



John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and **that your fruit should abide [remain]**, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

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Philippians 1:22

AV

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

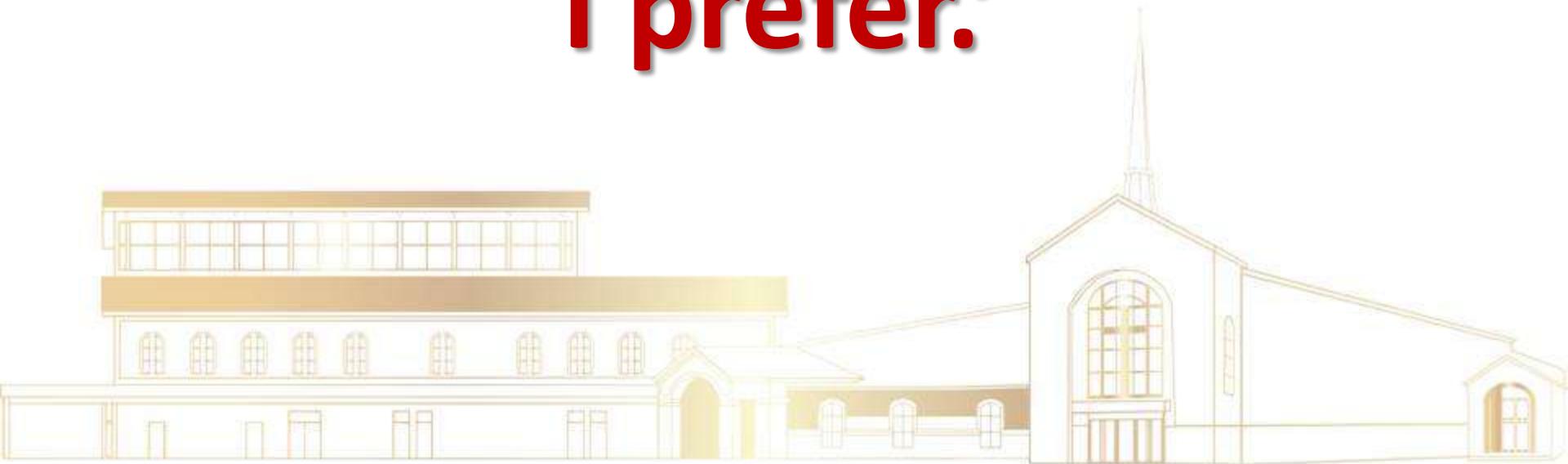
ESV

- **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

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

KJV Translation Count — Total: 11x

The KJV translates Strong's G2745 in the following manner: rejoicing (4x), to glory (3x), glorying (2x), boasting (1x), rejoice (1x).



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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**Are we uncomfortable
with the phrase
proud of?**



Question

Are we more proud of the winning goal in a soccer game or the evidence of self-control when the team is losing the soccer game?

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**Boasting, rejoicing,
glorying in or being
proud of together =
celebrating**



Effective Evangelism

Discipleship

Authentic Worship

Genuine Generosity

Victory over Sin

**Manifestations of the Fruit of
the Spirit**

Evidences of God's Grace

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