**HEARING AND SPEAKING THROUGH TRANSITION**

**2023 BMBC BIBLE STUDY**

**25 JAN 2023**

**SUB-TOPIC: KINGDOM SUPPORT**

**Philippians 1:20-28 NLT**

We all live for something. Parents may live for their children. Spouses may live for each other, and business owners may live for success. We say that we are “living for” something when that is the motivation for all we do. Living for Jesus means that pleasing Him is our highest aim.

What does it mean to really live for Christ? How do we know if we are truly living for him?

In the book of Philippians, Paul was imprisoned in Rome, awaiting a potential death sentence for his gospel ministry. In this specific text, he says one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. He says, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (v.21). This verse is the major theme of this passage. What does it mean to say, “To live is Christ?”

When anyone is living for Christ, he must be after the will of God in all things and do what pleases Him. Such a person should always endeavor to be holy within and without as to please the Master and must follow after the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul said, “To live is Christ.” What can we learn from his example about really living for Christ?

1. To Really Live for Christ, We Must Trust and Submit to God’s Plan
2. To Really Live for Christ, We Must Depend on the Body of Christ
3. To Really Live for Christ, We Must Exalt Christ in Everything We Do
4. To Really Live for Christ, We Must Properly View Eternity
5. To Really Live for Christ, We Must Focus on Discipleship

**OUR DIRECTIONAL THOUGHT TONIGHT IS…**

**1 KNOW WHAT LIVING MEANS**

**2 FRUITFUL WORK**

**3 LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE FOR OTHERS**

**4 HELP OTHERS TO GROW**

**5 LIVE ABOVE ALL**

**1 KNOW WHAT LIVING MEANS**

20 For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. 21 For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.

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**QUESTION: WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS ON VERSE 21?**

**2 FRUITFUL WORK**

22 But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don’t know which is better.

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**3 LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE FOR OTHERS**

23 I’m torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. 24 But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

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**QUESTION: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT PAUL’S STATEMENT…”l’M TORN BETWEEN TWO DESIRES”?**

**4 HELP OTHERS TO GROW**

25 Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. 26 And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

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**QUESTION:  HAVE YOU EVER FELT BLESSED BECAUSE SOMEONE ELSE RECEIVED FROM GOD?**

**5 LIVE ABOVE ALL**

27 Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. 28 Don’t be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself.

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**QUESTION: HOW WILL YOU SUPPORT STANDING TOGETHER IN SPIRIT AND PURPOSE?**

**My Prayer:**

**Lord, thank you for letting us work with you to share your joy with the world. Help us not take for granted the gift it is to share you gospel to the nations, and to our neighbors. Help us have eyes to see the needs around us and to respond to those needs in joy and hope. Thank you so much Lord for your love and care over us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.**