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***FUTURE-PROOF PROGRESS:
A LIFE WORTH LIVING, A DEATH WORTH DYING
PHILIPPIANS 1:18B-26***

PHILIPPIANS 1:18B-20 (ESV)

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ

PHILIPPIANS 1:18B-20 (ESV)

this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed,

PHILIPPIANS 1:18B-20 (ESV)

but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

1

Paul's **ambition** for the future: **Honor Christ.**

PHILIPPIANS 1:18B (ESV)

Yes, and I will rejoice

1

a. Rejoice in Christ consistently.

PHILIPPIANS 1:19 (ESV)

For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, this will turn out for my deliverance.

1

b. **Rely on Christ completely.**

JAMES 5:16 (ESV)

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

JAMES 5:16 (ESV)

The prayer of a righteous person has great power
as it is working.

PHILIPPIANS 1:18B-20 (ESV)

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PHILIPPIANS 1:18B-20 (ESV)

but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

1

c. Represent Christ courageously.

PHILIPPIANS 1:21 (ESV)

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

2

For Paul: To live, **Christ** and to die, **gain**.

TONY MERIDA

“Living for Christ not only takes the sting out of death,
but also makes death gloriously attractive.”

What about for you today?
To live, _____.

3

Paul's **aim** for the future: **Be with Christ.**

PHILIPPIANS 1:22-26 (ESV)

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

PHILIPPIANS 1:22-26 (ESV)

23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

PHILIPPIANS 1:22-26 (ESV)

²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

PHILIPPIANS 1:22-26 (ESV)

²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,

PHILIPPIANS 1:22-26 (ESV)

²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

3

Paul's **aim** for the future: **Be with Christ.**

3

a. Paul's dilemma

3

b. Paul's desire

PHILIPPIANS 1:23 (ESV)

My desire is to depart and be with Christ,
for that is far better.

3

b. Paul's desire

APPLICATION QUESTION

Do you want to be with Jesus
more than anything else in this world?

ROMANS 7:24-25 (ESV)

²⁴ Wretched man that I am!
Who will deliver me from this body of death?

ROMANS 7:24-25 (ESV)

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

3

c. Paul's decision

PHILIPPIANS 1:24-26 (ESV)

24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

PHILIPPIANS 1:24-26 (ESV)

²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,

PHILIPPIANS 1:24-26 (ESV)

²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

3

c. Paul's decision

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PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11 (ESV)

⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh,

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11 (ESV)

I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11 (ESV)

the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11 (ESV)

gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11 (ESV)

knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11 (ESV)

may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11 (ESV)

which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11 (ESV)

power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11 (ESV)

may attain the resurrection from the dead.

TONY MERIDA

“if you don’t have meaning in life, and if you don’t have this
outlook on death,

“grace is available to you in the person of Jesus Christ....
Everyone wants to live, and everyone will die.

“But there’s only one way to have a life worth living and a death worth dying, and that is to look to the one who conquered death, the one Paul desired to see above all things.

“If you see Him as He is, you, too, will say, ‘To be with Christ is far better.’”