



# **“TO LIVE IS CHRIST, TO DIE IS GAIN!”**

## **Philippians 1:8-30**

**> To live is Christ is to:**

**#1 - (v8-11) PRAY!**

**#2 - (v12-18) PREACH!**

**#3 - (v19-26) PROGRESS!**

**#4 - (v27-30) PERSEVERE!**

**#1 - (v8-11) PRAY!**

(v8) Paul loves the believers at Philippi, he says, “*he longs for them with affection of Jesus Christ.*” - - The word *affection* speaks of our inner being, a deep rich pure love for one another. Our affection for one another becomes a good infection in the body of Christ. Stay in touch with one another, help one another, bless one another, encourage one another, and pray for one another!

May I encourage you to be an affectionate believer!

- Barnes the Bible commentator writes, “Paul proceeds to enumerate the blessings which he sought for them; and it is worthy of observation that he did not ask riches, or worldly prosperity, but that his supplications were confined to spiritual blessings, and he sought these as the most desirable of all favors.”

(v9-11) **Eight Keys to a LOVING PRAYER LIFE:**

**#1 – Pray that believers would *ABOUND IN LOVE!***

**#2 – Pray that believers would *ABOUND IN KNOWLEDGE!***

**#3 – Pray that believers would *ABOUND IN DISCERNMENT!***

**#4 – Pray that believers would *APPROVE THINGS THAT ARE EXCELLENT!***

**#5 – Pray that believers would be *SINCERE!***

**#6 – Pray that believers would be *WITHOUT OFFENSE!***

**#7 – Pray that believers would be *FILLED WITH THE FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!***

**#8 – Pray that believers would do all things to the *PRAISE AND GLORY OF GOD!***

(Pray these eight keys for YOURSELF – AMEN!)

- Insight: The term “Day of Christ” speaks of the time when Jesus will call faithful Christians home in what is known as the RAPTURE of the BRIDE OF CHRIST!

(1 Corinthians 1:8; 5:5; 2 Corinthians 1:14 Philippians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;

1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Revelation 3:7-13; John 14:1-3)

## #2 - (v12-18) PREACH!

(v12-14) Paul views his trial of imprisonment as an opportunity to WITNESS.  
how?

- (1) Reaching a new group of people, fellow prisoners, guards, government officials, this he considers as the “furtherance of the gospel.”
- (2) Recognizing his “*chains were in Christ*” (drawing him closer to Christ, fulfilling the purpose of Christ).
- (3) Inspiring others to become “*bold to speak the word without fear!*”

(v15-16) Paul says that some “*preach Christ from envy and strife,*” meaning they were jealous of Paul and his message, they were determined to separate people from Paul unto themselves.

(v16) In this verse, Paul explains their motives are out of “*selfish ambition,*” they want their name in lights for their glory. Paul declares the proper motives of a solid preacher, is to “*preach Christ for GOODWILL!*”

(v17a) We must always preach the gospel out of “LOVE!”

(v17b-18) What does Paul mean in the expression, “for the DEFENSE of the GOSPEL”?

- *The Greek word for “DEFENSE” is apologia, thus we get our term “apologetics.”* Norman Geisler writes, “The Christian apologetics, then, is the science of giving a defense of the Christian faith. There are many skeptics who doubt the existence of God and/or attack belief in the God of the Bible. There are many critics who attack the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible. There are many false teachers who promote false doctrines and deny the key truths of the Christian faith. The mission of Christian apologetics is to combat these movements and instead promote the Christian God and Christian truth.”

- Two key verses for Christian apologetics are 1 Peter 3:15-16 - *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.*

Jude 3 - *Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

Every Christian should be able to give a reasonable presentation of his or her faith in Christ. No, not every Christian needs to be an expert in apologetics. Every Christian, though, should know what he believes, why he believes it, how to share it with others, and how to defend it against lies and attacks.

- Once again, let us remember the words of General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, as he was worried about the church losing the message of the true gospel. He illuminates four areas: (1) *Christianity without Christ!*  
(2) *Forgiveness without repentance!*  
(3) *Salvation without regeneration!*  
(4) *Heaven without Hell!*

- *Let us practice seven steps in sharing our faith with others:*

#1- Share your personal experience of salvation. Don't give your life story. It should not take more than a few minutes to tell how the Lord Jesus Christ saved you.

#2- Tell them that God loves them according to John 3:16-17 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

#3- Inform the individual that we are all sinners according to Romans 3:23 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (They may tell you that they are a good person, but you must ask them if they are holy, for God is holy and perfect. Various sins practiced by many are listed in John 3:18-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8.

#4- Explain to them about the wages of sin and the gift of God! - Romans 6:23 - *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Sin produces spiritual & physical death & life comes through Jesus Christ!)

#5- Invite them to become "Born Again!"- John 3:1-8, 36.

#6- Encourage them to say the sinner's prayer - Romans 10:9-10 - *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

- Sample prayer of salvation (have them repeat after you): *"Dear Jesus, please forgive me for all of my sins. I confess to you that I am a sinner and I want you Jesus to be my Lord and Savior and fill me with your Holy Spirit so I can be born again. Help me to follow you all the days of my life. Thank you, Father,*

*for loving me, and thank you Jesus for saving me. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.”*

**#7- Bless their new life in Christ with these scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.***

**Romans 5:1-2 - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***

**Romans 8:1 - *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.***

**Ephesians 2:8-10 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.***

**#3 - (v19-26) PROGRESS!**

**(v19-20) Paul embraces the “prayers” of others!**

**(v21) “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain”**

**Warren Wiersbe writes about people’s false ways, “For to me, to live is money and to die is to leave it all behind. For to me, to live is fame and to die is to be forgotten. For to me, to live is power and to die is to lose it all.”**

**(v22-26) Our goal is to get all believers to PROGRESS IN THE FAITH! This brings great JOY!**

**#4 - (v27-30) PERSEVERE!**

**- We are to STANDFAST in: ONE SPIRIT, ONE MIND AND ONE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL!**

**- We must PERSEVERE IN THE FAITH! - Matthew 13:23 - *But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.***

**Also Matthew 25:23 - *Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.***