

**June 26, 2023**

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

**Phil. 1:21 *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.* (NIV)**

I love this emphatic statement of faith by Paul. This is written in such a tone as to say: *'I have no doubt in either of these situations.'* As is the lot for every human, sin brought death into the picture. For many people, death is a great dread and fear; but not so for those that know Christ as their Savior. We have His word that we can stand upon. He told us in John 14, that He is preparing a place for us.

Now notice, Paul didn't say for me to 'exist' is Christ. Every person who is born into this world, exists. But the majority of people just exist without knowing real and abundant life. Their lives are not much more than just appearing for a while and are then gone. **Ps. 103:15-16 *The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.*** (NIV) Paul knew that his life matters to God and that it would continue to do so. How sad it is for those who choose to not believe upon the name that is above all names; Jesus. They live with no hope. They live with no purpose. They live with the thought that death is their final destination. But let me remind you today that death is just the doorway to eternal life with Christ in Heaven or eternal death in Hell for those who refuse to receive His salvation. Paul mentions his present and his future as **gain**. To live and to die are both part of God's plan for him. In both, Paul has no hesitation. How about you? Do you look forward to the days God has given you here on this earth? Do you also long for the eternity He is granting to you by your salvation? We are certainly double blessed beyond all people! True and real life here and then eternally with Him in His presence forever! Hallelujah! Even so Lord, come quickly!

**Dear LORD, thank You for life. We can continue to live in Your presence now and certainly in the future. This is Your word to those who love You and trust in Your salvation. In Jesus Name, Amen.**