

**TO LIVE IS CHRIST**  
**Study of Philippians**  
**Phil. 1:12-30**

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. Shakespeare's "Hamlet."
  - 1. *"To be, or not to be, that is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take Arms against a Sea of troubles,  
And by opposing end them: to die, to sleep;  
No more; and by a sleep, to say we end  
The heart-ache, and the thousand natural shocks  
That Flesh is heir to?"*
  - 2. Because of the weight and worry of the world, he was contemplating suicide.
  - 3. What is the most important thing in life?
- B. Paul focuses on what the important thing in our life should be.
  - 1. Facing the weight and worry of the world.
  - 2. *"To live is Christ, to die is gain."*

**I. LOOKING FOR THE GOOD IN ALL THINGS.**

- A. The cause of Christ is better known, vs. 12-13.
  - 1. Paul had longed to go to Rome to preach, Rom. 1:10.
  - 2. Now he was there as a prisoner.
    - a. Praetorian guard.
      - i. Finest soldiers in the Roman army – the Imperial Guard.
      - ii. Served as the emperor's private bodyguard.
      - iii. Assigned to guard Paul in 6-hour shifts [4 a day].
      - iv. In prison for his faith in Christ.
    - b. Everyone else – others influenced by Paul.
      - i. Onesimus, runaway slave, Philemon 10-21.
      - ii. Members of Caesar's household, Phil. 4:22.
- B. Brethren have more courage to speak, vs. 14.
  - 1. After first imprisonment of apostles (Peter and John).
    - a. Acts 4:23, 27-30.
    - b. Place was shaken and Holy spirit filled.
    - c. They spoke with boldness.
  - 2. Trusting in the Lord. If Paul can, ...then so can I, vs. 16.
  - 3. So, Christ was proclaimed, vs. 18.
- C. Christ always exalted in the body, vs. 20.
  - 1. Always giving God the glory. All about Christ!
  - 2. Remember, "... you have been bought with a price:..." 1 Cor. 6:20.
  - 3. It is the Lord's work, Eph. 2:10.
  - 4. Phil. 2:13, "...for it is God who is at work in you, ..."
    - a. "At work..." – *energeo* [energizes].
    - b. Lit., God gives the energy...

## II. TO LIVE IS CHRIST.

- A. To Live is Christ, vs. 21.
  - 1. Gal. 2:20
  - 2. Rom. 6:8-11
  - 3. Must bear fruit for God, Rom. 7:4.
- B. To Die is Gain, vs. 21.
  - 1. Depart and be with Christ.
    - a. 2 Tim. 4:6-8 – already poured out.
  - 2. Have we become too attached to the world?
  - 3. Citizenship is in heaven, Phil. 3:20.
    - a. Example of the faithful.
    - b. Heb. 11:10, 13, 16.
  - 4. Footnote, v. 24 – *“to remain on is more necessary...”*
- C. Conduct self in manner worthy of gospel, vss. 27-28.
  - 1. Standing firm in one spirit.
    - a. Early church – one spirit and grew.
    - b. Acts 2:46
  - 2. One mind striving for the faith.
  - 3. Never alarmed by your opponent.
    - a. Strong in the Lord, Eph. 6:10.
    - b. Example of David facing Goliath, 1 Sam. 17:20ff
    - c. Rom. 8:31, 35

## CLOSING.

- A. Phil. 1:29 – Suffer for His sake.
  - 1. Because we are going to face suffering in this life.
  - 2. We are going to face situations which will seem to us as the heavy weights and worries of the world.
  - 3. What is the most important thing in life?
- B. ***“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”***