



A Scandalous Joy: For me to live is _____. | | Philippians 1:18b-30

Philippians 1:18b-30

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

For me to live is _____.



Police did not name the parrot, which has reportedly continued to show its loyalty to its owners and is refusing to sing like a canary. **The Guardian** reports that a local journalist said the bird won't talk to officers and "hasn't made a sound."

“...simply existing...being merely housed and fed and safe and alive—seems empty and meaningless to us. What more is it that we need in order to feel that life is worthwhile? The answer...is that we all seek a cause beyond ourselves.” -Atul Gawande, *Being Mortal*

“My question—that which at the age of fifty brought me to the verge of suicide—was the simplest of questions, lying in the soul of every man from the foolish child to the wisest elder: it was a question without an answer to which one cannot live, as I had found by experience. It was...“Is there any meaning in my life that the inevitable death awaiting me does not destroy?”—Leo Tolstoy, *A Confession*

True and lasting joy starts where living a self-directed life ends and living for Christ begins.

See that Christ is the end, not the means

Philippians 1:21-23

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“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.” -Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*

“The critical question for our generation—and for every generation—is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there? ” -John Piper, *God is the Gospel*

Approach Christ as a follower, not a fan

Philippians 1:27-30

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his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.