



Pastor Jeff's Daily Devotion

Day 22

February 1, 2010

Day Twenty-Two

Philippians 1:19-21

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.^[a] ²⁰I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Many times it is hard to understand what God is doing. Paul here really believes that through the Philippians prayers that God is going to get him out of prison, but his real concern is that he is never ashamed to share the message that God has entrusted to him. His faith is strong enough that he wants to glorify God either in his life or his death.

That often quoted verse, "for to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain," teaches us much about this life. If our future is secure, then it gives us the freedom to really live here. What is your reason to live? If your life is Christ, then to die would actually be a gain. Put anything else in that blank. For me to live is happiness, family, success, money, etc., then death would be a loss. When it comes down to it, you will not find anything in this life that has the answer to death. When you can turn death into a gain, you have just made this life worth living.

So many live this life and grab all they can get, because this is all they have. (You only go around once) When this is not all there is, then you actually look forward to what comes after this life.

Lord, let my decisions reflect that for me to live is Christ. He is my life. My reason. My desires. My dreams. My future. Then this life will truly have meaning and contentment and death will be a gain.