

# Hallelujah Anyway, Part 6

Pastor Steve Berger May 10, 2015

## Hallelujah Anyway

*...having a faith that no matter what happens in your life, you continue to trust and praise God, knowing that God, and no circumstance, has the final word over you!*

**Nowhere is this truer than when it relates to the physical death of the follower of Jesus...  
even death itself doesn't have the final word over a Christian,  
God does, and His Word over you is life, abundant life,  
life beyond description or compare, life eternal!**

## Life and death and heaven and Kingdom impact

### 1. Paul's life purpose

- Phillipians 1:21-26
  - for to me, to live is Christ
  - to die is gain

### 2. ...for to me, to live is Christ

- Phillipians 1:21
  - for to me, *to live is Christ*
  - Christ's kingdom is Paul's priority
    - Matthew 6:33 — seek first, absolutely!
  - Paul's about Father's business
    - Spirit-filled, preach gospel, heal brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to blind, set at liberty the oppressed, proclaim God's favor

**You don't have to wonder if Paul is living for Christ,  
just look at the obvious, tangible, definable Kingdom fruit —  
there's ample evidence to convict him, he's living for Christ!**

*How about you... how do you fill in the blank, "For me to live is \_\_\_?"  
...and if you answer, Christ, is there obvious tangible, definable fruit, evidence?*

**Only when living for Christ is dying actually gain!  
Otherwise — it's just hell!**

*It's time for some of you to start thinking eternally... while there's still time for you to make some necessary changes, so you can honestly say, "For me to live is Christ."*

### 3. Story Jesus told to wake people up

*This is the story Jesus told to wake people up from their temporal, materialistic mindset, to challenge them as to what or more importantly Who are they living for...*

- Luke 12:15-21
  - life does not consist of the abundance of the things that one possesses

**Far too many only long for and live for selfish, temporary, material things — for them, "To live is cash, stuff, things etc."  
God calls this person a fool, because eventually they lose their soul and their stuff. it's too late for them.**

*Facing and answering uncomfortable questions now is a lot easier than facing them and answering them when it's too late... who are you living for, honestly?*

### **3. ...for to me, to die is gain**

- Philippians 1:21
  - for to me, to live is Christ, to die is gain
  - when living is for Christ, THEN, dying is gain, not otherwise!
  - **gain** — profit, everything you receive above and beyond cost or investment

**Whatever it costs you to live for Christ, that is a sure investment in eternal profit!**

- we must keep our eyes on that lest we grow weary in well doing

**Whatever it costs me to serve Jesus,  
there is eternal gain and profit coming my way in return,  
yes there is!!!**

- Hebrews 11:6
  - he who comes to God must believe that He is
  - He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

**Amazing...** *have to believe He is, and, rewarder of those who diligently seek Him! You have to believe the reward, profit and gain is going to be MORE than worth the cost. That the cost of this present life isn't even worth comparing to the reward, profit and gain for the next life, you must believe that!*

- **rewards** — a major theme of the New testament
  - Paul in 1 Corinthians 3
- Hebrews 11:24-27
  - Moses chose to suffer affliction, looked to the reward
  - he endured as seeing Him who is invisible

**Moses was able to pay the cost because he looked to the reward and looked to the Lord. He looked to the Lord to sustain him while he waited for the reward, same for us!**

**Warning** — *if you lose sight of the Lord, you'll lose sight of the reward! You lose sight of the reward, you'll quit living for the Lord!*

**Remember** — *last recorded words of Jesus in Bible, Revelation 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."*

**Yes** — *His reward is with Him, He's giving it out based on your work. Saved by grace, rewarded by works! Keep your eyes on that. The reward is infinitely beyond the cost!*

**Paul knew dying was gain, profit, and reward for him — because his living was for Christ! Dying? Hallelujah Anyway!  
You couldn't scare Paul with heaven.**

"The Heaven of fact exists all glorious and enduring, but this fact of Heaven must enter our experience, and then of this experience hope is born."<sup>1</sup> (E.M. Bounds, 1800's pastor)

<sup>1</sup> E.M. Bounds, *A Place Called Heaven*, (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House Publishers, 2003), 16

#### 4. Living for Christ produces ...

*Living for Christ produces reward later, but fruit NOW... not bragging, just fact!*

- Philippians 1:22 — if I live on in the flesh, *this will mean* fruit from my labor

**Goal** — *to live for Christ in such a way that I can confidently say, "there will be fruit from my labor, my life." Obvious, tangible, definable, no-guessing fruit!*

#### 5. The holy tension Paul lived in

*Paul shows us the holy tension he lived in between the gain of going to heaven and the fruit of staying on earth...*

- Philippians 1:23-24
- hard-pressed between heaven and earth — heart in heaven, hand in harvest
- desire to depart — longing and lust to be with Jesus in heaven — because it's very far better
- WHY is heaven very far better?
  - what's NOT there (Revelation 20:10; 21:4; 21:27) — devil, tears, death, sorrow crying, pain, fear, doubt, wickedness, violence, immorality, witchcraft, idolatry, lies... SIN!
  - what IS there (1 Corinthians 13:12) — see God face-to-face

"Seeing God in His glory, when we are strengthened to bear it, will be a perpetual source of bliss. Then all the attributes of God will shine forth, and we shall see the beauty of His holiness; the splendor and brightness of His understanding; the largeness of His love; His uncorrupted justice; His unexhausted goodness; His immovable truth; His uncontrollable power; His vast dominions, which yet He fills with His presence, and administers their affairs with ease, and is magnified and praised in them by the throng of all His creatures."<sup>2</sup> (Bishop Patrick, Pastor 1600's)

- 1 John 3:2 like Him; Philippians 3:20-21 same resurrection body; Revelation 21:7 inherit all things; Revelation 22:5 reign forever with Him — to name a few things

"In God, we shall have riches without care, honor without fear, beauty without fading, joy without sorrow, contentment without vexation, and all good things, not one after one, but all together; and without the defects annexed to them in this imperfect world."<sup>3</sup> (Richard Carpenter, Pastor/Author 1600's)

*Paul knows being with Jesus in heaven is very far better because of what isn't there and what is there, but he also knows staying on earth and producing Kingdom fruit and impact is important and necessary — he's hard pressed between the two choices — nevertheless he knows the greater need is to stay and impact lives!*

**Living with your heart in heaven and your hand in the harvest —  
that's what living for Christ is all about!**

#### 6. And being confident of this

- Philippians 1:25-26
  - **Berger translation** — *when I show up y'all are gonna be thanking Jesus because I'm going to continue to help you grow in your faith, I'm coming and I'm going to impact your lives!*

---

<sup>2</sup> Jonathan Edmondson, *Scripture Views of the Heavenly World*, (New York, NY: G. Lane & C.B. Tippet, 1846), E-book edition.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*

## 7. Summary

- a) when I live for Christ — His kingdom first, priority, there's fruit, Kingdom impact!
- b) then dying is gain — profit, reward, it's very far better, way worth the cost of living for Christ. We even face death with a *Hallelujah Anyway* faith!
- c) we must keep our eyes on Jesus to sustain us, while we wait for the reward of Jesus to bless us! He's coming quickly and His reward is with Him, amen!

---

## Discussion Questions

1. How do you fill in the blank, “For me to live is \_\_\_\_?”
2. If you answered “Christ,” is there obvious, tangible, definable fruit, evidence? If there is not tangible fruit, it is time to examine why.
3. What are some of the kingdom fruits produced by your faith in action?
4. In Luke 12: 15-21, why does God call the rich man a fool? Do you know this person? What uncomfortable question can you ask them before it is too late?
5. Discuss this statement. “When you are *living* for Christ, *then* dying is gain, *not* otherwise.”
6. Does it honestly give you a peace to know that whatever it costs you to serve Jesus, there is eternal gain coming your way in heaven?
7. Does that help you keep your eyes on Jesus, so that you do not grow weary in well doing?
8. Read Hebrews 11:6. Is this a challenging concept for you to really, truly believe? Why or why not?
9. Read Revelation 22:12. Discuss, “you are saved by grace, but rewarded by your works.”
10. What aspects of heaven are you personally looking forward to?

**Click on "House of Prayer" on [www.gracechapel.net](http://www.gracechapel.net) to fill out a prayer request. We will pray for requests for one month, and at our weekly prayer meetings. This week the Prayer Meeting will be joining the Worship Night on Wednesday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**