

How to Live like You Can't Lose

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Phil 1:12-26

12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. 16 The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. 18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

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. 20 I 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. 21 **For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.** 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me. NIV

Verse 12 And I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. NLT

Verse 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. . .

What liberating power is in that verse.

1) Paul Was Not the Victim of Circumstances - as Bad as They Were

* He was living for something bigger than himself.

Significance vs Success

Success is when I live for myself and build up my own fortune, reputation, sphere.
Significance comes from living for God and for others.

2) We Have Such a Tendency to Let Circumstances Throw Us into Despair, Discouragement and Depression.

Gal 2:20 I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by

trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. NLT

Problem: people give their life to Jesus, then take it back.

Illustration: Three Hebrew Children - faced with death in the fiery furnace. . .

Dan 3:14-18

14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? 15 I will give you one more chance. If you bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments, all will be well. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. What god will be able to rescue you from my power then?"

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. **18 But even if he doesn't, Your Majesty can be sure that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.**" NLT

III. Getting the Proper Perspective

Look at verse 21 . . . For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

What did Paul See?

- 1) He Saw His Life - for Jesus
- 2) He Saw His Death - with Jesus.
- 3) He saw the Kingdom - Of Christ

Matt 6:32-33

32 Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, 33 and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern. NLT

Matt 16:25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ESV

Gal 2:20 I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. NLT

Rom 8:32 Since God did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't God, who gave us Christ, also give us everything else? NLT

Verse 21. . . For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Dan 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. **18 But even if he doesn't, Your Majesty can be sure that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.**" NLT

Dan 3:19-24

19 Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. 20 Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. 21 So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully clothed. 22 And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames leaped out and killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in! 23 So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell down into the roaring flames.

24 But suddenly, as he was watching, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?"

"Yes," they said, "we did indeed, Your Majesty." NLT

Dan 3:25 "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of **the fourth is like the Son of God.**" NKJV

Invitation:

- 1) Have you given your life to Jesus?
- 2) Have you given your life to Jesus - tempted to take it back?