

*THE JOY OF
LIVING AND
DYING FOR
CHRIST*

Philippians 1:21-26

SERMON BY PASTOR ROMMEL INSIGNE

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Introduction: Paul sensed pure joy among the church in Philippi, as we observed in Philippians 1:1-6 in our first sermon. Paul blessed the church with grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul recognised how the church partnered with Paul in the proclamation of the Gospel from the first day they became followers of Christ and to the establishment of the church. They kept growing and growing in abundant love for God and for the church. Paul also recognised their generous support and how they saw God's faithfulness in their entire church life. In the second sermon, Paul continues to recognise and commend with joy of this faithful Gospel church in Philippians 1:7-11, their abundant love, and how it resulted in being a well-tested church. Paul described the church as an excellent church, a sincere church, a blameless church, and a Spirit-filled life and ministry through good works. The third sermon was about the joy of proclaiming Christ: the church is faithfully proclaiming the Gospel, defending the Gospel, and exalting Christ. Now, this exposition and sermon was the fourth, focusing on the joy of living for Christ and dying for Christ is gain. As highlighted in Philippians 1:21-26. In this sermon, we will explore how the church recognised the significance of choosing to live is Christ and choosing to die is gain. We will also examine Paul's final decision in this dilemma: Whether to live on in the flesh by faithfully serving Christ or to die is gain in perspective.

With all of these joys, growth, and success in life and ministry Paul had with the church in Philippi, why did Paul need to choose between living and dying? If I will ask you today, "If you have a few more days to live as a Christian, how will you invest your life here on earth, and why do you want to live long?" My answer would be that my purpose is to live for Christ, make disciples, and proclaim Christ until I die. But there is also a question for me to answer: Will I rather die now so I can live in heaven and see God? I hope and pray I will not choose to die early that would be selfish on my part and a sign of weak and poor faith. As I am still young to leave my family and as a church pastor. My decision to follow and serve Him is by His grace. My prayer remains steadfast, regardless of the circumstances. I will live for Christ. My family and I will face sicknesses, problems, trials, and testings in life and ministry. There is no shame in Christ if I choose to live for Him. No geographical location is undesirable as long as I choose to live and walk with Christ for the rest of my God-given life. Wherever the Lord assigns my family and me in ministry, regardless of the number of people attending, their commitment, or their lifestyle, I will live for Christ and serve Him. I will help the church grow and proclaim Christ until my last breath on this earth. As Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

That was Paul's concern and question: What will happen to the church if he dies? Paul knows how God operates as a Sovereign Lord in this world. If he lives, it is still perfect and a privilege to live and serve Christ. But if he dies, the proclamation of the Gospel will continue because the church in Philippi was a commendable church. There are three reasons why we must choose to live and make the Gospel of Christ progress all over the world.

1) Choose to live and die for Christ (Philippians 1:21)

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

The first reason the Gospel must progress and be proclaimed is that Paul committed to live for Christ here on earth and die in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. His examples of faithfulness and fruitfulness were obvious and commendable in the eyes of God and the whole church. Paul's life and ministry were a perfect witness for the church to continue to live their lives for the Gospel proclamation until Jesus' return. How did Paul decide to live is Christ and to die is gain? Paul knew that all believers of Christ must proclaim Christ, not only follow Christ. God's people were not perfect people, all guilty of criticising from inside and outside the church. Church leaders have their own weaknesses and sinful habits. However, that should not prevent the church from proclaiming Christ. That is why Paul asked for prayers for the church in Philippi. Pray for me (Paul), pray for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, pray for earnest expectation and hope to minister more not only for himself but for the church of Christ. So, every time Paul and the church proclaim the Gospel of Christ, they have confidence in the Lord. They were courageous to proclaim the Gospel. No one would put them to shame because they were doing the work of the Lord and living for Christ for the glory and exaltation of Christ (Philippians 1:9-11). This was Paul's prayer and desire in ministry, God's protection and blessing. This should be our prayer to our church members and leaders to courageously proclaim Christ and live for the Gospel while we are still alive.

How do we proclaim Christ? What are the elements of proclaiming Christ? What are the action points of proclaiming Christ? What was the resolve of Paul as an apostle and slave of Christ? Let us begin in **verse 21 "For to me."** What does this phrase mean? Paul mentioned that after knowing his circumstances, imprisonment, persecution, his chains, the progress of the Gospel, and God's faithfulness, His saving grace and calling in his life, their prayers and financial support of the church in Philippi were being felt and answered by God. The progress of the Gospel never stops and ceases. That is why for Paul to say this, **"As for me,"** it all means, in regards to his decision about living for Christ under the many testing circumstances, Paul chose **"to live is Christ."** To live means in Greek ZEN. To have life, becoming actively alive, good and healthy. Free and able to contribute to society. As for Paul, whether in chains or in freedom from imprisonment, the Lord is saving Him and giving him grace to live, speak, talk, travel, and think well for Christ. For Him, if the Lord will permit it and bless him with more life to live in this world, it is to live is Christ. If the Lord will give Paul extra life to stay healthy, Paul will choose to live for Christ. To choose to live is to be all Christ.

As a church today, this should be our resolve: **"As for us"** we are for Christ. Our lives are fully dedicated to Christ. We will walk with Christ. Follow and obey Christ. Stand up for Christ. Honour and exalt Christ. We will not turn away from Christ anymore. He is our Lord and Saviour forever. Our talents and time are all given by Christ, and we must use them for His honour and glory. Our strengths and pleasures are Christ. Our activities and minds are Christ. Our wealth and popularity are Christ. It is not me and for me and for our pleasure and peace. It is all Christ. Our joy and peace are Christ. It is always Christ. We take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. This life is Christ. I am living because of Christ, and to die is gain. If the Lord allows me to die, it is

not a defeat, curse, or shame; rather, **“to die is gain.”** What is **gain** in Greek? KERDOS. Gain means to have an advantage. To gain profit and to acquire the best deal. If we die serving Christ either in sickness or in death sentence, it is our gain. We will see Christ face to face, and it is a gift to us from God. We will taste the goodness and presence of God for eternity. Having our glorified bodies and living in the eternal Garden of God, His paradise. No more sickness and pain. No more hardship, troubles and suffering. No more temptation and no more sin. Life is perfect in heaven, where there is complete joy and peace. To die for Christ and have Christ till our last breath is our gain. To die serving Christ and following Christ is a blessing. It is a full favour from God. We didn't lose the fight. We won the fight and finished the race with the grace of God. For Paul, every material gain, achievement, success, wealth and attainment, he counted them all loss. They are nothing anymore, useless, worthless and rubbish. Do you want Paul's dedication and commitment to Christ? Let us be like Paul. That is the spirit of Paul and his life purpose. To live is Christ, and to die is gain. Stay healthy and strong so you can live long, serve Christ long, and love Christ until He returns. If you have a few more days to live, how will you invest your life here on earth? **Galatians 2:20**, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” What will you do if you choose to live for Christ? How will you decide if you are in a dilemma of what to choose: to live is Christ or to die is gain? What is the best decision to take in your life and calling as proclaimers of the Gospel?

2) Choose to serve Christ (Philippians 1:22-24)

22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know what I will choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed between the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better, 24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

Paul established and made a firm conviction and announcement to the church in Philippi that as long as he lives, he will continue to live for Christ, and Christ is his life, nothing less and nothing more. For Paul, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. However, what if the Lord will allow him to live on in his flesh and enjoy life, food, pleasures, recognition, and work? Let us read and study verses 22-25: It says in verse **22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me;** What does this mean? What Paul means is if the Lord Jesus Christ will allow him to live whether in prison, persecution, and suffering or whether he is now free with all the good health and ability to speak and walk and travel and have strength, this means fruitful labour. According to Paul, **Fruitful labour** means he will continue proclaiming the Gospel and excel more in doing what the Lord has called him to do. To bear more fruit (John 15:1-12). Fight a good fight, finish the race, and never give up. Be a light and salt of the earth. Live in personal holiness and sanctification. Proclaim Christ. Preach Christ. Serve Christ. Excel still more (1 Thessalonians 4:1-2). This is the implication of Paul's life in Christ: Christ is God and Lord of His life. He will live for Christ, and to live is Christ is fruitful labour.

But Paul loves to be with Christ in heaven. He loves the idea of seeing Jesus face to face. But at the same time, he also loves to stay with the churches. Serve the church of Christ. Proclaim and preach Christ and the Gospel to the Gentile world. He longs to see the churches that he planted, especially the church in Philippi. He wants to continue teaching them about Christ and to be a true faithful follower and defender of Christ and His words. That is why Paul was in a dilemma. **“And I do not know what I will choose.”** To live in Christ is what Paul wants. But to die for Christ is gain. Paul knew both are good destinations: to be in heaven or to live and serve Christ with the believers in Rome, in Philippi, and in Jerusalem. What a joy to be in heaven and what also a joy to be serving the Lord with fellow believers.

How about you, what will you choose? To live is Christ or to die is gain? A true disciple of Jesus is owned by Christ. Christ is the owner of your life. You must follow Christ and live for the honour and glory of God and Christ. A true disciple of Jesus Christ should be more and more excited to see Jesus face to face. You desire and pray for the Kingdom of Christ to come. To rule this world as the true and perfect King and Lord. As Jesus helped the disciples how to pray in Matthew 6:9-13: Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your Name, 10 Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Luke 11:2-4: In verse 2, Father, hallowed be your name, thy Kingdom come. This should be our prayer: first, for us to be a true disciple of Christ willing to live for Christ and die for Christ. Second, willing for the Kingdom of Christ to come while we are still alive. But if we die before His second coming, we will live with Christ with our glorified bodies and worship Him for eternity. We will be able to experience perfect peace, joy and love in heaven, and it is forever.

But one thing is good about Paul, in verse 23 as we even learnt in verses 21 and 22, **“But I am hard-pressed between the two.”** Paul explained and defined what being hard-pressed means. Paul in his heart, prefers to die and to be with Christ face to face. Paul was describing **hard-pressed**, like both hands are being held together or some people are holding your hands and you are also holding them. You cannot move properly because you are tied on both sides. The other side wants you, and the other side also wants you. You are being pressed on both sides. You miss your wife every time you leave home for work. This is what he meant of hard-pressed: **“wanting to depart and be with Christ, for that is much better.”** Paul wanted to leave the world or die early. According to Paul, it is good and better for me to die. To die and to depart means to be unloosed, to set sail, or to break camp. For Paul to depart means to be free from the bondage of death. To be with Christ in heaven and not hell. Death is a promotion, a reward and an accomplishment. Paul is assured of his salvation and security in Christ and that his body will be resurrected on the last day. He knows He was a called follower of Christ. Paul believes God saved him and forgiven all of his sins. That is why to die means heaven and eternity. Perfect glorified life and body and the 100% absence of sin in heaven (Revelation 7:15-17). To live in heaven, to live in the Kingdom of God, and see in the future the city of God is better. It is getting more blessings than living in this world. S.E. Runge said, “To Paul the prospect of heaven must have sounded even better. Five times he received thirty-nine lashes, three times he was beaten with rods and shipwrecked, and he was even stoned once (see 2 Cor 11:23–29)! He knew hardship.” Runge, S. E. (2011). To depart is better!

What is about heaven and the Kingdom of God in heaven? Where is heaven and paradise? What is the city of God? Why is it better than the kingdom of this world? Heaven is the glory of God and the light of God. Perfect Joy and love dwell forever. The eternal dwelling of God with its glory and beauty. A spiritual place. God will even create a new heaven and new earth, a place with streets of gold and pearly gates (Revelation 21). Heaven is the abode and the garden of God. The perfect garden and the beautiful parks of God. It is also called the beauty of God. A perfect new life. A perfect place of God. The pleasures of God (The garden of pleasure). Heaven means the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is the rule of God, Christ is King, and Christ is the sovereign ruler of the world and heaven. The glorious Kingdom of God. To die for Christ is to be included in the kingdom reign of Christ on the last day. We will reign with Christ (Revelation 11:15), allowing Christ to be the true ruler and Master who reigns in our hearts and life. The focus is more on the Rulership of Christ in His Kingdom in Heaven. Seeing and being with the Ancient of Days. The Creator of Heaven and earth. Having the wisdom of God is the Kingdom of God. Heaven is the City of God: It is the place of the Holy God. The holy and divine abode and presence of God. The Most High God dwells in the city of God. The perfect city, the perfect new earth. Only the believers of Christ are the citizens in the city of God. Adopted by Christ as sons and daughters of God. A place of rejoicing. No more sorrow and death (Psalm 46; 48:8; 87:3). Choosing to live in the city of God is choosing Christ more than the world and money and pleasures. Choosing to live for Christ and denying to live with the world of sin and darkness. The absence of sin. The absence of wickedness and injustice and unfairness. A complete experience of love because God is love. Heaven is a central belief of Christianity. It is our biblical Theology that there is heaven and there is hell. The New Testament mentioned the word heaven 276 times. For Paul, to depart is better! **2 Corinthians 5:1**, "For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." **2 Timothy 4:6**, "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come."

Paul prefers to be with Christ in heaven, to call for the Kingdom of God to come down and to reign with Christ. Away from the world's life and pleasures. choosing to be with God's glorious presence more than the darkness and sin of the world. Hating the world and disliking life in the world. Choosing the perfect presence of Christ and His glorious light. Paul prefers to be in the city of God and in the Kingdom of God and His heaven because it is a far better life. However, to live on in the flesh is better now for the sake of the church and all the believers' growth, service, and faithfulness. What was his rationale or reasoning? Let us read **verse 24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake**. This was Paul's reason, and the only reason or purpose of existence is for the sake of the church. Paul prefers to live and to remain in the flesh. He prefers to live by the grace of God, extend his life even while in prison and go through sufferings in chains. This is not to have more pleasures in life and have more enjoyment of being alive. To remain on or to live on is to continue to be an apostle of Jesus Christ to the church in Philippi and all the churches. To continue to be more faithful in teaching Christ, making disciples, preaching and leading many churches to Christ. Proclaiming the Gospel message to the churches and to the Gentile world. And for the growth, comfort and encouragement of the church in Philippi. I believe

this is one of the contexts of this letter of joy. To bring joy and give them joy in Christ. His purpose of existence as Paul was relating to the church in Philippi is for their comfort and encouragement. So they would not cease to serve Christ but rather excel still more. **“For your sake or for your account.”** The church will be more like Christ and Christ-centred in life and ministry. To die seems more selfish, and remaining alive is more selfless according to Paul.

What is preventing us from serving Christ? What is your sin (habitual sin)? Do you love yourself more than Christ? Do you love your material possession and the world and their offers, and what Christ is offering you is heaven, the Kingdom of God and the City of God and paradise? What are your plans and desire to achieve more and to get more in this life? To be more popular and gain more sinful experiences? We should be like Paul. If he lives on in the flesh, let us excel more in following Christ. Live for Christ and to live is Christ. **(Look Luke 14:25-35: The Cost of Discipleship for extra reading:** A disciple knows he is owned by Christ (vss 25-27); A disciple knows the consequences of following Christ (vss 28-35): 3 examples of owning Christ and following Christ: a) He already decided to build the tower (vs 28-30): No turning back and finish the building; b) He knows the consequence of fighting the battle (vs 31-33): Giving up fame and wealth of this world. Willing to be low in the world but high in Christ; c) He must be a useful salt (vs 34-35): Bear good works, faithful and fruitful, pursuing holiness, righteousness, and sanctification. The cost of following Christ is that Christ owns you. There are consequences of following Christ. You need to be firm and sure to follow Christ till the end. You need to give up the pleasures of the world (repent from sinning); And third, bear fruit and do not stop bearing good works for Christ.

3) Choose to grow the church (Philippians 1:25-26)

25 And 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 your reason for boasting may abound in Christ Jesus in me, through my coming to you again.

As we conclude this sermon, I just want to summarise what Paul wants in his life and for his life. Paul was actually in a ministry dilemma: either to live is Christ or to die is gain. First, he chose to live in Christ whether to live or die is gain. Second, Paul chose to serve Christ for the progress of the Gospel and the growth of the church. That is why the third principle we can see in Paul's life and ministry and commitment is that Paul chose to help the church grow. Grow in Christ and grow the church. Paul chose to help the church grow in faith despite all the inconveniences in following Christ. Paul also wants the church to choose to have joy in their faith in Christ. Let us read verse 25 **“And convinced of this.”** Paul was already sold out and persuaded. This is the meaning of the Greek word PEPOITHOS. He was convinced of this. What does “this” mean? The one that he was struggling about living for Christ or dying to see Christ. His confidence comes from God's calling to glorify Christ and follow Him. The calling from God is to worship and give praises to God whether in being alive or dead. He already gave his confidence, trust, and dependence on God's grace and mercy. Love and forgiveness. Sincerity and truthfulness of God. God will continually use

him whether to live is Christ or to die is gain. Paul chose to live for a while in the world for a reason: the growth of the church.

But by God's grace to Paul and to the church in Philippi, Paul decided to stay alive and live here in this world for a while. Two reasons why he decided to stay: First, remain and continue in the church. This is for the progress of the church and to have joy in the faith. This is what Paul said: **“I know that I will remain and continue with you all.”** Paul has already decided to be alive in spite of his imprisonment, persecution from Rome and some people in the church. Paul decided to serve Christ with the church in Philippi. He was already convinced and persuaded by God's Spirit and grace and calling to continue serving Christ, preaching Christ, and helping the church stand firm against false teaching and false teachers. Paul wants to encourage all followers of Christ in Philippi that he chose to live and remain (MENO) with the church so he can continue serving the church for the glory of God and Christ in spite of his chains. By faith visit Philippi and serve the church.

I have had a lot of missionary work experiences in the Philippines. stayed in 4 weeks to six weeks. most of the time. Served and preached the Gospel. Do house-to-house visitation and Bible studies. You gain disciples who want to grow with you in Christ. and you feel you want to stay longer and continue on to remain and abide more in the growth of the church. But you have no choice but to leave and go back home. You feel sad and disappointed. People are crying literally because the team is leaving them. It's traumatising most of the time. That is why Paul said, even though I want to leave this world. I choose to pray and trust God to extend my life so I can serve the church in Rome and in Philippi and continue proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. But anyway, who caused the growth of the church? It is God and not us. Salvation and the born-again experiences of people are the work of the Holy Spirit. We left the church planting work and knowing the Lord will be faithful to His call of salvation of those people young and old to follow Christ. That is why I got this burden to be a pastor instead of being a missionary. Leaving the church and moving on again to another church is not healthy for me and my family. I thank God by His grace for allowing me to be a pastor. Now, I can stay longer and make disciples, using my biblical studies to preach the word of God. In spite of the many pains, tears, separation, mistakes, failures, and sins committed by me and my family to people who served in this church. God remains faithful to me and to my calling. That is why it is only by the grace of God that we are still here in the ministry serving the Lord with my family. Nothing to boast about.

Many temptations in my mind even changed my attitude regarding my calling and pastoral work. I was saying to myself, “Maybe I will just quit, leave Australia, and return to the Philippines.” But by the grace of God, we are still serving the Lord. I am still married to Marjorie and with my kids, serving the Lord for one purpose: to make disciples. In spite of our circumstances and our life journey here in Australia, I have joy, and I rejoice, and I will continue to make progress of the Gospel in our church and in Australia because we are serving the Lord and making Christ known in our church. That is why we can join with Paul. This is the second reason: Progress and joy in the faith. But why did Paul want to remain alive instead of dying? **“for your progress and joy in the faith.”** Two ways we can see in this statement, first is the progress of the church. What is the Greek word for progress? PROKOPE. To advance or to grow and to become better. To gradually

grow, to gradually spread the cause of Christ. This was Paul's reason for existence, and this is what it means to live is Christ. To spread the Gospel of Christ. Exposing many people to the message of the Gospel. Paul was an expansionist. A courageous biblical expansionist. Paul wants the Gospel to spread more and more with the help of God and the church in Philippi. He wants the church in Philippi to plant more churches. Make disciples. More faithful disciples of Jesus Christ mean more preachers of God's word. More proclaimers of the Gospel. Paul knew there were more people who needed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul wanted to remain and share Christ more. Paul was not doing it for himself or doing it for money. But He was doing it for the proclamation of the Gospel. So that those who hear the Gospel and receive the Gospel will be saved and transformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

We desire and pray as we stay and choose to live, choose to serve Christ and choose to grow the church. Help people's marriages and families become biblical marriages and families. Many people will become Gospel thinkers. Many people in the church will be Christ-centred thinkers and focused. Defenders of the Gospel and security guards of the Gospel. Excellent communicators of the Gospel not in pretence or wrong motive but based on changed hearts and life. People in the church will be like Jesus Christ and like Paul, a missionary for the Gospel. A faithful servant. A slave of Christ. A bondservant of Jesus Christ till they die.

What is the second reason why Paul became confident in the Lord to live in Christ for a while? **"and joy in the faith."** What does joy in the faith mean? What we know about defining Joy is blessed life in Christ. A pure gladness in heart. Having Joy for a reason and with purpose. Joy that is deep and based not on circumstances but on one object and one person, Jesus Christ alone. Paul's joy comes from his faith in Jesus Christ. So, the reason is for the church in Philippi to continue on in the faith. To have a strong and firm faith in Jesus Christ. When we say in the faith means in relationship with Jesus Christ. Having a deep connection, communion, and friendship with Jesus Christ. You are in Christ and know the gospel because you believe Jesus Christ is the Messiah. He is the Son of God. He is the Saviour of the world. The one who takes away our sins. And He is God, and He is the Eternal life. He is the giver of life. This is the meaning of **"in the faith."** According to Paul, there is progress in their faith and progress in their joy in the midst of persecution and difficulties in serving the Lord in the church.

But Paul wants the church to become growing followers of Jesus Christ who have joy in serving the Lord. The truth of their faith in Christ is their joy in Christ. In spite of our circumstances and our life journey here in Australia, I have joy, and I rejoice, and I will continue to rejoice because we are serving the Lord here and making Christ known in this church. Have joy because of our faith's progress and growth (like the church in Philippi). The church I am serving Faith in Christ Church, I would say, "You are my joy!" I am not content in the growth, but I have joy in my heart because the multiplication and growth of this church are not based on my abilities and spiritual giftedness but on God's sovereign grace and the work of the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit). The growth will come sooner. If not in my generation but in your own generation.

As we end in verse 26, what is the main and specific reason or purpose why Paul wanted to live and remain alive in the flesh? Is it for the progress and joy of the Gospel church? **“So that”** (INA is in Greek) the church in Philippi will be more encouraged and confident, firm and strong, and affirmed to excel in love. Their faith in Christ may abound more. Their confidence in making disciples and proclaiming Christ would be their pride and joy. They would boast with confidence in the Lord with boldness and courage and without fear. Paul was saying this because he also boasted and found confidence in the Lord. Seeing the church in Philippi growing in their service to God. In fact, he is coming, which means growth of the church, encouragement and comfort from the Gospel of Christ. Paul was looking forward by faith to serving them again in Christ. Paul’s desire for the church was only one thing: to know Christ, their Lord. Only to gain Christ and be faithful to Christ. When the church sees Paul they too would boast in Jesus Christ. They will be encouraged to excel still more in the Lord. This is what it means of verse 26 **“so that your reason for boasting may abound in Christ Jesus in me, through my coming to you again.”**

Conclusion: What is the main reason why we have Christ in our hearts? What does Christ want us to do in our lives? Maybe you should know your life's purpose and existence here in this world. As for me, my life purpose is to glorify Christ and make disciples for the rest of my life. What is the reason why you bring your child or children to school? Or to Sunday School? What is the reason why you are here in Australia? What is the purpose of you being alive and healthy? What is the purpose of school? Why are you educated? Why are you good at speaking or writing, and why are you so skilled and strong? One is to glorify Christ. Give honour and praise to God. Second, make Christ known by your life and words. God has a purpose for all of our gifts, talents and strengths. You must use them to share Christ and to tell the whole world that Jesus Christ is the only way to God and the only way to salvation. The only answer to our emptiness, loneliness, and depression. Christ is the answer. That is why for Paul and for the church in Philippi: As for me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If we choose to live, let us live our lives not for ourselves but for the glory of God and for making Christ known. Make disciples, serve Christ, and help the church grow. Whether we have nothing or are not happy in our marriage, family, work, and life. Whatever the circumstances we are in have joy! Rejoice in the Lord. Yes, I say, rejoice! Live for Christ and serve Christ until Jesus comes back again! **2 Corinthians 5:9:** Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. **1 Corinthians 15:58:** Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.