WHAT DO YOU LIVE FOR?
Philippians 1

I remember an advertisement I saw many years ago. It was a photo of a guy shaving in front of a mirror with this headline over it: “Is it an alarm or a calling that gets you out of bed in the morning?” I don’t remember what product they were actually promoting but I did remember that slogan. And I thought it was a good one. And so I ask you, is it an alarm or a calling that gets you out of bed in the morning? What makes your blood pump? What gets you excited? What do you think the most about? What would you say the greatest passion of your life is? What gives you the most pleasure? The most purpose? What raises your life above the mere level of existence? Everyone lives for someone or something.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Paul said, “To live is Christ.”** Christians who are really heavenly minded are the ones who are doing the most earthly good. Or as C.S. Lewis put it, “The Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next.” Christians should be practical—doing practical, useful, beneficial things for the glorification of Christ.

2. **He also said, “To die is gain.”** This doesn’t mean Paul had a death wish. He wasn’t sitting around waiting or hoping to die so that he could go to heaven. But he didn’t let death worry him. He rested in the Lord and His timing. He saw death for what it is: a promotion, a coronation, a reward—if you are a believer in Christ.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- It has been said, “Eternity to the godly is a day that has no sunset. Eternity to the wicked is a night that has no sunrise.”
- As Randy Alcorn reminds us, it would be more accurate to call our present existence the before-life than to call what follows the afterlife.
- When you are doing a work of God, you are going to come under attack. Sometimes the attack comes from the outside, and sometimes it will even come from the inside.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

So what gets you up in the morning? Hopefully it is a heart for God—hopefully you get up every day and say, “Lord this is another day to serve You. This is another day to get closer to You. I am going to start this day opening Your Word and praying and asking for Your direction.” Only the person who can say “to live is Christ” can also say “to die is gain.”