

# To Live Is Christ

Week 1 - All Circumstances are to Reflect Christ

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - February 4th, 2024





**PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY**

Acts 15:36 - 18:22

- City
  - One of the "Seven Churches of Asia" - Rev. 2-3
  - ← Paul's Route
- ConformingToJesus.com



# **Eternally Security & Being Conformed to Christ**

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ.

*Philippians 1:6 ESV*



For to me **to Live is Christ...**

*Philippians 1:21a ESV*

If then you **have been raised with Christ**...Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and **your life is hidden with Christ** in God. When **Christ who is your life** appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

*Colossians 3:1-4 ESV*

**Abide in me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. **Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit,** for apart from me you can do nothing.

*John 15:4-5 ESV*

**I have been crucified with Christ.** It is no longer I who live, but **Christ who lives in me.** And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

*Galatians 2:20 ESV*



I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to **advance the gospel**, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more **bold to speak the word without fear**.

*Philippians 1:12-14 ESV*

Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? **Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed,** and in that I rejoice.

*Philippians 1:15-18 ESV*

Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage **now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**

*Philippians 1:18-21 ESV*

**If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.**

*Philippians 1:22-24 ESV*

# 1. Our Difficulties Advance the Gospel

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to **advance the gospel**, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

*Philippians 1:12-13 ESV*



**Life is 10% what happens to you  
and 90% how you respond.**

**All the saints greet you, especially those  
of Caesar's household.**

*Philippians 4:22 ESV*



## Joni Eareckson Tada - Joni & Friends

Image credit: [joniandfriends.org](http://joniandfriends.org)



**The world has a philosophy that says, “What can’t be cured must be endured.” Christians have a philosophy that says, “What Can be cured can be enjoyed.”**

*Joni Eareckson Tada*

## 2. Our Difficulties Empower Others

**And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.**

*Philippians 1:14 ESV*



**Denny Henderson**

*Image credit: missionofhope.com*

### **3. We Give Grace Regarding the Flaws of Others**



**Only that in every way, whether in pretense or  
in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I  
rejoice.**

*Philippians 1:18 ESV*

# 4. We Accept Suffering as Part of God's Plan



**Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents.**

This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ **you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake...**

*Philippians 1:27-29 ESV*

**It has been granted to you that for the sake  
of Christ you should... suffer for His sake.**

*Philippians 1:29 ESV*



**Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life...**

*Philippians 2:14-16 ESV*



**George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) 1850**

*By Alexandre-Louis-François d'Albert-Durade (1804-1886)*

*Image credit: Wikipedia Commons*

**“There is no despair so absolute as that which comes with the first moments of our first great sorrow, when we have not yet know what it is to have suffered and be healed, to have despaired and recovered hope.”**

*George Eliot*

**When we Declare “To Live is Christ:”**

**Our Difficulties Advance the Gospel**

**Our Difficulties Empower Others**

**We Give Grace Regarding the Flaws in Others**

**We Accept Suffering as Part of God’s Plan**