

## Questions, Quotes and Notes

January 1, 2023

Philippians 1:21: To Die is Gain

**Pre-Sermon:** Here are some questions to think about to get you ready to listen to the sermon on Sunday.

1. When was the last time you thought about death?
2. Does someone asking you that question make you uncomfortable at all? If so, why do you think that is?

### Mid-Sermon:

I want us to look at Philippians 1:21 and consider 1.) the way Paul thought about death and 2.) how he was able to think about death like that because if we think about death the way Paul thought about death it will transform our lives. But, instead of having you simply focus on listening for an outline, I want to give you some important ideas to listen for. So, as you come to the service, bring a piece of paper and a pen, and see if you can answer these questions as I preach.

1. How does our culture typically think about death?
2. What are some reasons we tend to forget death?
3. How is not wanting to think about death normal? How is it a problem?
4. How did Paul think about death? Why is that surprising?
5. Is Paul saying this because he did not take death seriously? What else does Paul say that proves he does think death is a problem?
6. In Philippians 1 we get two answers as to why Paul can say death is gain. What are they?
7. If to live is Christ and to die is gain, what difference will that make in the way you actually live life?

### Notes:

### Post Sermon:

- Important Cross References and Quotes to think about:
  1. "In previous centuries, death happened where life happened. Death by disease was often a slow, agonizing process without the help of pain controlling medication. This happened to someone you loved, perhaps in the room where you slept, in a place where you would see the agony and hear the moans or the screams." Matt McCullough
  2. "In the 1870's, when death was everywhere, it would have been embarrassing to bring up sex at a dinner party. It would have been shameful to admit you think much

about sex. It would have been irresponsible to talk to your kids about sex. But by the 1950's ... the taboo had shifted. Death had already become in the twentieth century what sex had been to the nineteenth century. In the nineteenth century, adults told children that babies came when storks dropped them at the front door. Those same children stood beside as their loved ones died. Now kids learn that grandpa's death means he's gone to a place where he can play golf or go fishing all day. Meanwhile, kids have almost constant access to sexual content in their instagram feeds."

3. "When we sit at our tables, let us think, I shall shortly be a morsel for the worms. When we rest in our lodgings, let us think, a cold grave will shortly be my bed. And we view the chests in which we put our treasures, let us think a little black chest is that wherein I myself shortly may be locked up." Cotton Mather
4. "If you are typically modern, your life is like a mansion with a terrifying hole right in the middle of the living room floor. So you paper over the hole with a very busy wallpaper pattern to distract yourself. You find a rhinoceros in the middle of your house. The rhinoceros is wretchedness and death. How in the world can you hide a rhinoceros?" Matt McCullough
5. "My question—that which at the age fifty brought me to the verge of suicide—was the simplest of questions, lying in the soul of every man from the foolish child to the wisest elder. It was a question without an answer to which one cannot live. It was: 'What will come of what I am doing today or tomorrow? What will come of my whole life? Why should I live, why wish for anything, or do anything?' It can also be expressed thus: 'Is there any meaning in my life that the inevitable death awaiting me does not destroy?'" Leo Tolstoy
6. Ecclesiastes 2:14
7. If you are going to think about death the way Paul does you need to think about life the way Paul does.

- Application: **We don't want to be hearers of the word only, but doers. Being a doer usually takes thinking, however. Spend some time thinking about how you can apply what you learned today.**

1. Do you think about death the way Paul does? Why or why not?
2. How can you know you are living like death is gain for you?
3. How do you know life is Christ for you?
4. What two steps did we say you can take to change the way you think about death?

- How Well Was I Listening Questions: **Here are some questions for your children.**

1. What was the sermon about today?
2. How did Paul think about death? Why did he think about death that way?
3. Death is scary. What are some things that help Christians not be scared by it?
4. Was there anything that confused you in the message that you want to talk about?