

Theme: We can have joy because life is an opportunity to know and serve Christ, and death brings us into His Presence, which is the deepest desire of our hearts.

I. Intro – Modern Fortune Telling

- A. Woodbury's fortune teller
- B. Psychic friends network Dionne Warwick – chap 11
- C. NY Times – all kinds of people do this
- D. Scientific versions - genetic testing
- E. We have a strong impulse to know future
- F. We think this allows control – base for joy

II. Paul's Uncertain Future

- A. Some - Paul know outcome of trial
 - 1. Paul knew outcome (v19, deliverance, 25)
- B. Paul did not know the outcome of trial
 - 1. v19 – salvation – (σωτηρία; Job 13:16 [ESV])
 - 2. Live or die (v20-21; 2:17)
- C. Paul's joy is not based on knowing this
 - 1. Paul has reason to suspect as we will see
 - 2. His joy is based on something else

III. Paul's Certain Future – And Ours

- A. Paul's life motto: To live is Christ, die is gain (v21)
 - 1. Covers all possible options – life and death
 - 2. This idea pulses through whole section
- B. To live is Christ – a life of fruitful service to Christ
 - 1. Life is from Christ, in Christ, to Christ
 - 2. Service (vv20-22) - Exalt in body; fruitful labor
 - 3. Necessity of remaining (vv24-26) – progress, joy, boasting
- C. To die is gain – to be with Christ - ultimate goal
 - 1. Yet our true goal is beyond this life, die is gain
 - 2. Exalted in our death (v20)
 - 3. A hard choice??!! (vv22-23)
 - 4. With Christ – best option (vv22-23)

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I base joy on a certain future – or Christ?
 - 1. The future is never certain – no basis for joy
 - 2. Does not mean don't plan – but don't worry
 - 3. Christ – unlike future – is certain

B. Do I live for Christ – life of fruitful service?

1. Can I honestly say “To live is Christ”?
2. Is He my all consuming passion in life – or garnish?
3. What, if removed, takes away joy? – That is Lord

C. Do I believe death is gain – to be with Christ?

1. Fee quote – addendum
2. Do I long to be with Him – or yawn at thought?
3. Not suicide – He decides our time – work left
4. How is my passion level to be with Him?

D. Communion – A Meal of Passion (His & Ours)

Joy in the Journey (Part 2): Our Future With Christ

Philippians 1:18b-26

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Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

Psychic Rosanna Rogers of [Cleveland](#) explains the variety and the scope of people who visit fortune tellers: “couch potatoes aren’t the only people seeking the counsel of psychics and astrologers. Clairvoyants have a booming business advising Philadelphia bankers, Hollywood lawyers and [CEO](#)’s of [Fortune 500](#) companies... If people knew how many people, especially the very rich and powerful ones, went to psychics, their jaws would drop through the floor.”^[13] Ms. Rogers “claims to have 4,000 names in her [rolodex](#).”^[14] Zane, J. Peder. “Soothsayers as Business Advisers; You Are Going to Go on a Long Trip...” The New York Times 11 Sept. 1994.

16 **This will be my salvation**, that the godless shall not come before him.
Job 13:16 (ESV)

17 But **even if I am being poured out like a drink offering** on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.
Philippians 2:17

“We expect eventually to ‘depart and be with Christ.’ For Paul this was a yearning, for us it is too often an addendum.” – Gordon Fee