

**To Live is Christ**  
**W/C 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar 2025**

What are we living for? Or rather who are we living for? The Apostle Paul is a great example of someone whose life was totally committed to serving Jesus.

The story of Paul's encounter with Jesus, on the road to Damascus, is well-known. Without even knowing the story, or even having read the Bible, people today refer to a 'Damascus Road' experience as one that is lifechanging. It certainly was for Paul.

Prior to his experience, Paul despised Jesus and all who followed Him. But afterwards, his whole life was *all* about Jesus.

The text for this week's study contains one of the most challenging statements for us as followers of Jesus - "For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Are you ready for the challenge?

**Welcome:** Where does the world find meaning in life?

**Worship:** Spend some time in worship. Plan an act of worship that is appropriate to your group.

**Word:** Looking at God's word together:

**Read Philippians 1:19-25**

1. What does it mean "to live is Christ"?
2. What two assurances did Paul have to convince him that he would be delivered from his present situation (note: He is in prison at the time of writing to the Philippians)?
3. What were the advantages of each of the possible roads (death or life) that were in front of Paul?
4. Why is it that we, more often than not, see death as loss rather than gain?
5. In what way does the assurance of eternity give us hope for the present?
6. Are you assured of your eternal destiny?

**Witness:** How can we help others have the assurance that there is more to life, and even more to death?

**Prayer:**

- Pray with expectancy that God will do so much more in our own lives and through his church this coming year.
- Pray for the homes in the immediate vicinity of your own home.
- Pray for the church during Mat's sabbatical. Pray that it will be a fruitful time.
- Pray for those about to have surgery, or recently had surgery or waiting on an appointment?
- Pray for those on the mission field.