"For to Me, to Live is Christ and to Die is Gain" (Philippians 1.21)

I. Background:

- A. Paul's long-standing relationship with the Philippians. (Acts 16.6-40; cf. Philippians 1.5)
- B. Paul's letter of commendation (2.25-30; 4.18) and thanksgiving (1.1-11)...
- C. Also contained a likely unexpected message from Paul... (1.12-21)

II. Source of Paul's confidence and joy? (Philippians 1.21)

- A. "For to _____" (v 21) → Personal ______ (cf. v 15,17; Romans 14.12; 2 Corinthians 5.10)
- B. "To live is _____" (v 21) →
 Christ-centered ______.
 (cf. v 13,18,20,22, 24-25,30; 2 Corinthians 4.8-10;
 Galatians 2.20; 1 Corinthians 6.19-20; Colossians 3.3-4.6)
- C. "And to die is _____" (v 21) → Transcendent _____"
 (cf. v 23; 2 Tim. 4.8; Colossians 3.4; 1 Corinthians 15.51-54; Romans 8.16-18)
- D. "But I am _____-" (v 22-24) → Paul's conflicted emotions.

E. Paul's _____ (v 25-26; cf. v 8)

III. Conclusion.

- A. "For to me, to live is _____." and to die is _____."
- B. How will you fill in the blanks?
- C. Only when "to live is <u>Christ</u>" can it be said that "to die is <u>gain</u>".