



## ☀ Review Section

- A. We can have JOY in spite of **troubles**.
- B. We can have JOY in spite of **detractors**.
  - i. God's purposes are often accomplished through our problems.
  - ii. The sharing of the gospel should always be our goal.
  - iii. Take courage from the examples of other Christians.
  - iv. The message of Christ is all that matters
  - v. Don't be surprised by those who detract from the Gospel.
- C. We can have JOY in spite of **death** (Today's Title)

## ☀ Study Verse Section – Philippians 1:15-20

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - Philippians 1:21, NASB** <sup>-21</sup> *For to me [It's used here in the emphatic tense—this is personal to Paul], to live [lit., the act living] is [this Greek sentence, v. 21, actually contains no verb; there is no "is" in this sentence] Christ and to die [lit, to have died; cf., natural death; there is a difference between dying and death, right?] is gain [denotes a 'great gain' like our concept of a large inheritance].*

**Literal Translation:** *To me! To live—Christ; do die—gain!*

**Philippians 1:21, GWT** <sup>-21</sup> *For to me, will it be life or death? It's either living for Christ or with Christ. Either way, I can't lose.* (Underlines added for emphasis.)

**"For me, to live is \_\_\_\_\_?"**

## ☀ Message Section

# JOY In Spite of Death

Philippians 1:21

## 1. What your trials \_\_\_\_\_ do.

### A. They can expand your ministry.

*"What has happened to me..." - vv. 13, 14*

### B. They can teach how sovereign your God is.

*"My circumstances have turned out for the greater good..." - v. 12*

### C. They can help you bring glory to God.

*"Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death." - v. 20*

When you are not afraid to live or die for Christ...

1. You are free to focus on the things that really matter.
  2. You are free to be indifferent to your own personal fate/trials.
  3. You are free to be utterly consumed with doing God's will.
- Peter Fleming

## 2. What your trials \_\_\_\_\_ do.

### A. They can't rob you of joy.

*"I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice" - v. 18*

### B. They can't take everything from you.

*"To me, to live—Christ; do die—gain." - v. 21 (literal trans.)*

### C. They can't separate you from your inheritance.

*"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." - 21, NIV*

How death can become 'Gain'?

1. We lose everything we don't need. (World, flesh, evil, doubt, trials)
  2. We keep everything that matters. (Soul, faith, saved loved-ones)
  3. We gain what we never had. (Heaven, new bodies, God, Jesus, HS)
- Alexander Maclaren

**"For me, to live is \_\_\_\_\_?"**

*"We'll have all eternity to celebrate our victories, but only one short hour before sunset to win them." - Missionary Robert Moffatt*

Answers: 1. Can, 2. Can't