

## The Meaning of Life

### Philippians 1:18b-26

#### 1. Paul's "Life Verse" (v. 21)

- Philippians 1:21 is one of the most familiar, yet least understood verses in the NT.
- Jesus Christ was the central, controlling reality for Paul's life.
- When Christ is the greatest reality in *our* lives, there will be two primary effects on the way we live.

#### 2. Ambition for the Honor of Christ (v. 20)

- A two-sided ambition
- The *reason* Paul is confident that Christ will be exalted in his life and death is because, for him, "to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

### 3. Activity for the Spiritual Good of Others (vv. 22-24)

A. Activity for others' progress in the faith (v. 25)

B. Activity for others' joy in the faith (v. 25)

- Paul's life was devoted to producing in others the same cherishing of Christ and the same desire to honor Christ that characterized his own heart.
  
- The way to cultivate Paul's life philosophy—"to live is Christ, and to die is gain"—is through an ever-deepening grasp of the gospel (Philippians 3:7-9)

**Next week:** Philippians #5: Philippians 1:27-2:4