

To Live IS Christ!

L. Davies

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain...” Phil 1:21 ESV

It might be tempting for many to read that powerful statement expressed by the Apostle Paul, in context written to the Christians in the Roman province of Philippi, and say something like, ‘Boy, what a focus!’, or ‘what an encouraging or an amazing brother Paul was!’ Yet the very truth of the matter, as would be relayed in many other places (see: 2 Cor 5:15, Rom 6:6, 6:18, etc), must lead us to the right conclusion: that the Holy Spirit was using the Apostle to convey what **MUST** become the reality of ‘every’ disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is very probable, with the high level of discipleship and commitment to Jesus in those early days, that as some Christians read those words they simply nodded their heads and said, ‘Yes that’s right!’ As to them, especially when one reads the accounts both from the Word itself along with other historical records, that that statement spread as a *conviction* across ‘many’ hearts – since the disciples were of *“one heart and soul” (Acts 4:32)*.

We are living in very precarious times indeed, dear family. If the Apostle John as an old man near the end of the 1st century proclaimed to the Saints, *“Children, this is the last hour” (1 John 2:18)*, would that not be evermore true today? The Bible further admonishes us in **Romans 13:11-12** *“Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light”*. The admonition is clear – if you knew Jesus Christ was to return this September 2009, for example, how would your life change? Would we not all collectively make EVERY effort to take our collective walks in Christ to a whole new level? Might there not be less TV or Movie watching, less Internet-surfing; and more calls, letters, etc to encourage, help and pray with one another; might we see more in-depth heart-to-heart fellowships, group prayers, and less superficial ‘hi and byes’; might we give more attention to insure our brothers/sisters to always be reminded of how deeply loved they are and tell them to stay faithful to the Light! And, certainly, I am convinced there would be a greater awakening in each of our hearts to the *tragic* state of the world and its impending peril as it heads completely unprepared for the grand climax of all history! There certainly would be more tears, more urgency, greater alertness, longer weeks, less complaining, and more rejoicing as we courageously and more zealously work as a *unit* to win countless more onto the Lord Jesus Christ, as we literally plead with our fellow man, saying *“Save yourselves from this perverse generation!” (Acts 2:40 NASB)*

Family, time is short – I am realizing this more than ever. We all know it. Take a look in the mirror! Those grays have come; the hairline has receded or is none existent! Yet, more seriously, loved ones have passed, famous pop singers have vanished, and for sure Satan has only become increasingly desperate. His works to divide the church of our Lord are stronger than ever, his works to divide and ruin households are stronger than ever, his efforts to turn us all even right here in Long Island into a *couch-warming, flesh-pleasing, inward-loving, and worst of all Truth-compromising church* are stronger than ever. Why? Because as he knows, along with all of the evil ones, each day that passes beckons the dawn of the blessed New Age! The Age of Heaven, which he knows will *soon* dawn, where he and all evil will **NO MORE** trouble the man or woman of the Most High God, the man or woman redeemed from his grasp, the man or woman born again to live through Jesus Christ, in Jesus Christ, and for Jesus Christ and Him alone!

In light of all this, dear brothers and sisters, fellow soldiers, it is time. It is time for each individual member of the Lord’s body to harken to the Spirit’s call. The call to *complete* obedience to our Messiah, the call to *complete* dedication to His work, the call to *complete* commitment to loving each other – *“and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Heb 10:25)*, the call to proclaim – like the Apostle Paul, like our early brothers and sisters – from the inside out, with a stirring conviction that will make evil shudder, that **YES, YES “to live IS Christ and to die IS gain”**, as it is manifested in a life reflecting just that! Amen.

The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:

Evangelist
Robert Carr

Associate Evangelist
Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Minister
Charlie Gomez

Marriage Counselors
Derek Peterson
Steve Aponte, Sr

Worship Directors
David Luhrs
George Bullinger

Bulletin Editors
Pedro Gelabert
Danny Aponte

Minister of Finance
Arthur Shlesinger

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“Speaking about what we have seen and heard...” Mark 5:19 Family Matters

The Efficacy of Jesus’ Blood

Pedro Gelabert

1John 1:7 NIV But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

A yearning to be with the Lord is the motivation for our transparency which results in righteousness – walking in purity as Jesus’ blood cleanses us from all the evil that, as we know, is within the old sinful nature! All sin is cleansed! How amazing is that? This blood of Jesus that keeps on cleaning as we keep on walking in the light was the blood sprinkled on us when we first were united with Him in His death at baptism (**Romans 6:3-8; 1Pe 1:2**). It was sprinkled on us as we died with Him and continues to work on us as we continue to die to self – keeping the old man buried and being renewed by the Holy Spirit every day. His blood is truly efficacious!

Hebrews 9:14-15 NIV *How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*

Efficacious: *having the power to produce a desired effect.*

The blood of Jesus is efficacious; it removes the obstacle keeping us from fellowship with the Father. It allows us to continue conforming to Him despite living in a sin ridden world. It cleansed us from our former sins so that we can partake of the New Covenant in Jesus. It continues to cleanse us, allowing us to grow spiritually without the detrimental effect of sin. It allows the Holy Spirit to live in us and give us power to defeat the old man, crucified with Jesus, now dead to the world – that the new man made in the image of Christ can continue to love for God!

Truly the blood is the most awesome medicine, therapy, and vehicle of salvation – only possible by Jesus giving Himself to suffer and die for us that we may indeed live! Praise be to His holy and awesome name forever and ever!

“The Lord added to their number...” Acts 2:47 Recent Baptisms

DATE	NAME	TOWN
7/19/09.....	Iris Marquez	Bronx, NY
7/1/09.....	Chris Colaiges	Central Islip, NY
6/25/09.....	Peter Marquez	Bronx, NY
5/16/09.....	Abraham Bioachie	Stony Brook, NY
4/23/09.....	Joanne Rodriguez.....	Briarwood, NY

“They first gave themselves to the Lord...” 2 Corinthians 8:5

Weekly Budget: \$ 9,000		
DATE	ATTENDANCE	CONTRIBUTION
7/5/2009	317	\$10,579
7/12/2009	286	\$8,004
7/19/2009	316	\$9,609
7/26/2009	285	\$6,095

One Life to Live

Susan Wine

How is your life going? Do you live your life with enthusiasm and excitement? Or do you feel like you're just going through the motions, trying to keep your head above water?

Life is challenging. The world constantly threatens to pollute us. Our days are riddled with stress, worry, and seemingly meaningless routine activities. As we get older, it becomes more challenging to keep child-like joy alive, and we can start feeling defeated and worn out. We have to fight against the spirit-crushing influences of Satan and the world and stick like glue to God's life-giving power!

We are given only one life to live. Are you making the most of it? Are you living it to its fullest?

Jesus said in the book of John: *“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10b ESV)* God has given us a fantastic gift – the abundant life! He's given us true purpose and made our lives significant. Knowing Him gives meaning to everything we do, large and small. He has given us a rich existence to replace the meaningless one we used to live. His Spirit lives in us! Why then do we sometimes live “scarcely” - the opposite of abundantly?

Life is short. **James 4:14** reminds us, *“...you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”* None of us are promised another day, so let's do away with petty grievances, small mindedness, and worries. Let's stop getting distracted with minutia. Instead, let's focus on the good we can do while we are here on earth. I am reminded of a famous quote: *“I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again” (William Penn).* Several Scriptures teach us to make the most of the days God has given us:

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Galatians 6:10 NIV)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” (Col. 3:23 NIV)

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV)

“As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” (John 9:4 NIV)

“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13 NASB)

Take time to evaluate your life in Christ. What changes do you need to make to live more abundantly? Ask yourself: Am I the best wife I can be? Who can I be a better friend to? Is there someone I see frequently and haven't shared Jesus with? Am I physically, emotionally, and mentally present with my children? Do those around me know they are loved? Am I living as a ray of hope among those who do not know Christ? Am I remembering that the abundant life I have is not just for me – Am I sharing it? Don't say I'll have time for that later or someday. If there's something good to say, say it now. If there's something good to do, do it now. Don't let timidity, past failures, or fear prevent you from living up to your God-given potential. Be reminded that life is a gift from God! Ask God to help you live a more abundant life – a life that makes a difference.

When I stand before God, I want to be able to say – I didn't give way to fear, but with faith I gave my life for His purposes. As humorist Erma Bombeck wrote, *“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’”*

“For the building up of the Body...”

Ephesians 4:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 📖 **Bible Class:** We will not meet for Wednesday night Bible class on August 12th (Long Island only).
- 📖 **Devotional Services:** August 7th and 21st at 8:00 PM. Please come early to fellowship and encourage one another.
- 📖 **VBS 2009:** VBS dates are August 10-14.
- 📖 **Women’s Day 2009:** Save the Date! Women’s Day is Saturday, October 24, 2009, from 10am-2pm. Registration will begin on September 20, 2009.
- 📖 **Video Library:** If you have any items taken out from the video library, please make sure they are signed out or return them if you’re done with them. Please see Rob Dixon in the back foyer Sunday after services for more information.
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 We are now reserving the front two rows for people who wish to be prayed with, during the song of invitation. Please try to find seating elsewhere. Thank you!
- 📖 All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- 📖 Address/telephone changes can be e-mailed to directory@licoc.org.
- 📖 **Parking reminder** - Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

- ✝ Apologetics Press.....International
- ✝ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✝ Ron Clayton.....India
- ✝ Doug & Lucy McDougale.....Ukraine, Russia

“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”

1 Thessalonians 1:8

COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert(347) 732-2101
Individual House Churches in Queens, New York City. Please call for directions.

Spanish Ministry.....(Tuesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Charlie Gómez.....(631) 772-2889
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.

UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Willie Tolison, and Bill Oden. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.

We Care Campaign Itinerary

2009	Location
Aug 26 - Sept 6	Chattanooga, TN
Sept 16 - Sept 27	Chattanooga, TN
Nov 8 - Nov 22	Whitney, TX