**TO LIVE IS CHRIST, TO DIE IS GAIN**

Philippians 1:1-30 (Key verse 1:21)

*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain*

1. Who is the sender of this letter and who is the recipient (1)? How did Paul identify himself? Why does he bless them with grace and peace (2)?

2. What can we learn here about Paul’s relationship with the Christians in Philippi? (Acts 16:11-40, 3-4, 5) What was his thanksgiving topic? How can he be confident about the future work of God in this uncertain world? (6)

3. Read verses 9-11. What were Paul’s prayer topics? What is the work of God that he longs to see in their lives? What is the source of love, knowledge and insight? Why do we need these things?

4. Read verses 12-14. While Paul was imprisoned, to whom did he preach the gospel? Why might this be difficult? What was the result of his preaching? Read verses 15-17. What were the different motives that led people to be more active in preaching the gospel while Paul was in prison? Yet, in what way is God glorified nonetheless (18)?

5. How can Paul’s imprisonment and sufferings turn out for his deliverance and joy (19)? How can Paul not be ashamed, but have sufficient courage to exalt Christ (20-21)? What does it mean ‘to live is Christ (22, 24-26), and ‘to die is gain’ (23)? With this in mind, what does it mean to conduct oneself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, and why (27-28a)? What is the hope of being fearless to the opposers of the Gospel, and to participate in the suffering of Christ? (28b-30)?