

## To Live is Christ

At the beginning of this new year, let's pause and consider the purpose of our lives.

What am I living for? Can I apply the apostle's words to myself, "For me to live is Christ"? (Philippians 1:21). Or must I substitute "Christ" with something or somebody else? Perhaps, For me to live is...

- pleasure and fun,
- dollars and wealth,
- fame and popularity,
- my career or hobby,
- my partner or children.

If that is so, I must also change the second part of the sentence, and instead of saying, "to die is gain", I would have to admit that "to die is loss". Loss! - the miserable end of a meaningless existence! May God save me this vanity.

May God give me the grace to be able to say sincerely, "For me to live is **Christ!**" I live for the glory and honour of Christ who loved me and gave Himself for me. I want to walk closely with Jesus; to behold the beauty of His holiness, to taste the goodness of His love. My desire is to obey and please Him in all things; to joyfully fulfill my duties at home, work and church because I'm serving Him. My knees bow down before His name, my tongue proclaims to all the world that Jesus Christ is Lord.

And then, when the end comes, I'll be able to say, "...to die is gain!" For me it is profitable to depart because to be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord. Blessed thought! One day I'll be face to face with my Beloved Lord and Saviour, Jesus, to glorify and enjoy Him forever.

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