

# Settle It!

Settle Your **IDENTITY!**

Philippians 1:21-25

Paul's Bedrock **CONVICTION**

vs. 21-23

Literally: 'For me ... to live... **CHRIST**'

It is the **DEFINITION** of his **INVISIBLE** self

It is the **DECLARATION** of his **VISIBLE** self

'Departing' is the **CULMINATION** of Paul's bedrock conviction

Our **CULTURE'S** 'Good news'... 'I am finally **at home with myself** '  
'...embracing and living more **wholly into my full self** '

The **BIBLE'S** 'Good news'... 'my inner self can be **transformed to be like Jesus**' Galatians 2:20

Question: Which 'Good News' leads to personal **THRIVING**?

Paul's bedrock **CAUSE**

vs. 22, 24-25

To remain is to **SERVE** vs. 22

To remain is to **PRODUCTIVELY** serve vs. 22

To remain is to productively serve **PEOPLE** vs. 24

To remain is to productively serve people's **SPIRITUAL** life vs. 25

Questions to Ponder:

Am I settled in my **IDENTITY**? Honestly finish this sentence;  
'For me... to live... is \_\_\_\_\_!'

What are my deepest **LOVES, LOYALTIES, and LONGINGS**?  
Does Jesus get to define these?

What are my greatest **CAUSES**? Does Jesus get to determine these?

Where am I currently **SERVING PEOPLE**, helping them  
progress in their **FAITH**?

Auburn Grace Community Church – February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Philippians 1:23-25** "But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith..."

**DISCOVER** (Read Philippians 1:18-26)

1. Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon were all written by Paul during his imprisonment. Why does he see his incarceration with such positivity? Why is it that we find these prison epistles so liberating?
2. Where does the world find meaning in life? What are some of the world's ideas of "good news" that leads to personal thriving?
3. What are some areas in your life that need to be settled? Is this simply an unwavering commitment that you will "plant your flag" on? Where can you turn to find a firm footing?
4. Can a Christian have any other identity? What would others say about your identity today?

**EXPLORE**

1. Read Galatians 2:20. What does it mean to be "crucified with Christ"? Why must this be an all-in, 100% decision? What happens if it's less than a full commitment?
2. Philippians 1:21 says, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Can you make that same proclamation? Is this also for others as well? In what ways do your sufferings in life have eternal implications? If you were to substitute the word "Christ" with any word (i.e. marriage, career, etc.) from this statement, can there be any gain in death?
3. When we go through life's trials, we should examine our own attitudes. Are we scared in making a stand for God? Are we more worried with money and material possessions than exalting the Lord? The truth is God sees these invisible self-qualities in us. How can we finally live in complete holy transparency and authenticity under His gracious gaze?

**EXPERIENCE**

1. What specifically would have to change for your identity to be Christ when it's time for your memorial service? What does this say about your invisible (private) self?
2. What or who competes with Christ to sit on the throne of your life?
3. What must we do to crucify our "self"? What is the role of the Holy Spirit? How does this process of crucifying ourselves change over time, especially in terms of our developing spiritual formation?

**PRAY**

*Pray...Father in heaven, being crucified with Christ is so much easier said than done. My natural bent is to live my life on my own terms. Decrease me. Show me how to die daily to my self and to make Your life my life, so much so, that it is no longer I who live but You living in and through me.*

Action...What one area of my life will I die to this day?