



# Blackfoot Church of Christ

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## **To Live is Christ**

By Doy Moyer

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. 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." (Phil 1:21-24 -- really, read the chapter... and the book...)

What a statement! Paul contrasts departing to be with Christ with remaining in the flesh. Look, there is much we don't understand about how the body and mind function together. Terms like "spirit" and "soul" are used in a variety of ways (though not here), and we who are now in the flesh will have only a limited view about how it all works. Yet here is Paul, in faith and with confidence, saying that if he departs the flesh he will be with Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5, he said it this way:

"Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord" (vv. 6-8).

Now, of course, the tricky part is how all of this works with the resurrection. In the same epistle (Philippians), Paul says resurrection is his ultimate goal:

“...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”  
(3:10-11)

On the one hand, Paul was ready to depart the flesh to be with Christ. On the other, he was longing for the resurrection. Are these at odds? Hardly.

Unless the Lord returns first (and thus the resurrection), we will all have our “departure” (cf. 2 Tim 4:6). If that departure occurs before the resurrection, I believe Christians will depart to be with Christ as they await the resurrection. I accept the words of Paul: to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Do I understand it all? Nope. But I accept it, and I believe Paul knew what he was talking about.

Also, recall what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. When the Lord returns, He will “bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus,” and these will rise first (1 Thess 4:13-18). This makes sense if saints who have passed from this life have, in the meantime, gone to be with Christ. They will be with Him in His return for the resurrection.

This should not really surprise us. Jesus told the penitent thief, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). While the body of Jesus lay in the tomb, and before His own resurrection, Jesus was in paradise. So was the former thief. It was not a period of inactivity and lifelessness. Paradise is access to the tree of life, which is in the very presence of God (cf. Rev 2:7; 22:1-5).

What I see in all of this is that there is a continuity of the person from this life in the flesh, to life departed from the flesh, and to the final resurrection in which the flesh is changed in the twinkling of an eye from what is corruptible to that which is incorruptible (1 Cor 15).

May God help us have Paul's attitude in this. As we face our departure from the flesh, may we desire to be with Christ. And as we eagerly await the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Pet 3:13), may we also seek to attain to the resurrection, thus sharing in the complete redemption for which Christ came to die and rise again.

## **Jesus the King**

By Ross Ward

There were many questions among the Jews about Jesus and his kingdom. When Nathaniel first saw Jesus, he called him the "Son of God" and the "King of Israel", John 1:47-51. Jesus, while being interrogated by Pilate, was asked "if he was king of the Jews" John 18:33. Jesus responds: John 18:37, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born". Jesus said came into the world to be King. Nathaniel acknowledged it. The Jews accused him of it. Yet, Jesus' kingdom was not the kingdom they were looking for nor the one they were expecting. Jesus told Pilate: John 18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." Yet, this is what they were all expecting. Attempting to protect Jesus, Peter drew a sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, John 18:10. We see that Peter, even after 3 years of being with Jesus, he did not understand the nature of Jesus' kingdom. In Acts 1:6, the Apostles asked Jesus if he would now restore the kingdom to Israel. Know that Jesus is now reigning as King over his kingdom on the throne of David, on a throne that is not of this world. He is King over his Kingdom, Acts 2:29-36.

## Prayer Requests & Announcements

- David and Catherine are traveling
- Kevin, Jennifer, and boys will be flying back to DC tomorrow.
- Brenda and Ray are recovering well from surgeries.
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class scheduled for tonight at Chad and Kass' postponed till next week.
- Joe Price will be bringing lessons for us May 19-24

For prayer requests, call or text  
Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

## Assignments

<b><u>Today</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Ben Palmer <b>Lord's Table</b> – Tom Mitchell <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Song Leader</b> – Ben Palmer <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward
<b><u>Next Sunday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Tom Mitchell <b>Lord's Table</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward	<b><u>Next Wednesday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Song Leader</b> – Tom Mitchell <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ  
370 North Shilling Ave.  
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

### **Meeting Times:**

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM  
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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