

REFLECTION

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, September 20th, 2026

Scripture: Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Paul states, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." In this verse, Paul sees his life as a platform for Christ's glory, and his death as a window into Christ's presence. His struggle is one of love, not fear: staying means serving others, while leaving means seeing Christ.

Paul's "eager expectation and hope" is for Christ to be exalted in his body, whether he lives or dies. Thus, his greatest fear is not suffering or death but failing to honor Christ. This passage expresses the heart of Christian discipleship. To live for Christ implies that we no longer focus just on ourselves—our ambitions, possessions, accomplishments, or accolades. Christ becomes the reason for our existence, giving meaning to both our joys and our struggles. Moreover, Paul believes that staying alive is vital because it allows him to continue helping the Christian community. This reminds us that our lives are gifts bestowed upon us for the benefit of others. We are not here solely for ourselves. God offers us the opportunity to encourage, forgive, serve, teach, console, and bring hope to others.

In a nutshell, Paul encourages us to live with Christ as our goal, die with Christ as our gain, and stay when called for the benefit of others. May our lives serve as a living testimony to the Gospel, allowing others to experience Christ's love and hope through us.

“Life is to live in such a way that we are not afraid to die.”

— St. Teresa of Avila