

A THEOLOGY OF

DEATH

PURPOSE, PREPARATION, AND HOPE

WEEK TWO: DEATH AS GAIN

“To me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.” Reflecting on his own mortality, Paul’s paradoxical perspective on death continues to challenge believers in the Church nearly two thousand years after he penned these words. Can we honestly say that we expect death to be “better” for us? What should be our perspective of death as Christians? In the face of the certainty of death, we must seek a hopeful and biblical outlook on death that matches the Gospel we believe.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has your perspective on death been challenged or changed in light of Paul’s words in Philippians 1?
2. Do you consider death as something “better” — something that will bring you nearer to Christ and release you from bondage to sin? Why is it so difficult to embrace this point of view?
3. “If my life = (family/wealth/etc.), then death = loss.” In what ways are you spending your life on fleeting things rather than on Christ?
4. How are you currently saying “to live is Christ” by the way you live? How are you currently saying “to die is gain” by the way you live?
5. How does the fact that your days are numbered in this life change your perspective on whatever work/ministry God has left for you to do before you die?

COMMIT TO MEMORY

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. — Philippians 1:21