

Magnifying Christ
Philippians 1:18b-26

Main Point:

Because the future is uncertain, boldly live your life to magnify Christ your Savior.

1. The future is always uncertain.
2. As a believer in Christ, your future salvation is assured.
3. By the power of the Spirit of Christ, live to magnify your Savior.
4. Magnify your Savior boldly without fearing the uncertainties of the future.
5. Magnify your Savior by placing the spiritual good of others above your own.

Quotations and Cross-References

James 4:13-15 ¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." (NKJV)

Psalm 73:26 ²⁶ My flesh and my heart fail; *But* God *is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (NKJV)

George Swinnock "If God is once your portion, he will forever be your portion. When earthly things are taken from you, he is the good part that will never be taken away ... When dying and withered, he will never leave you or forsake you."

Sinclair Ferguson "Whenever it becomes clear that we count Christ greater than ourselves, he is [magnified]."

Walter Hansen "He would be ashamed if he did or said anything that was not consistent with the proclamation of Jesus Christ."

Frank Thielman "So Paul believes that God will use the Philippians' prayers for him while he is in captivity to help him persevere with 'sufficient courage' and ultimately to stand before God as one of his redeemed people. The 'Spirit of Jesus Christ' is the divine means through which this help will come."

Romans 8:19 ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 5:8 ⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. (NKJV)

Frank Thielman "Continued life is fruitful labor because it means that Paul will be able both to preach the gospel ... and strengthen the Philippians' faith ..."

Frank Thielman "Christ is more important than life itself to him, and the joy and progress of his fellow Christians more important than departing to be with Christ."

Sinclair Ferguson "But if it is his will for us to continue to live, one reason is this: he means to bless us and use us as his servants. We too can say, *that means fruitful labor for me ...*"