

The Courage to Face Death

Phil. 1:6

And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Phil. 1:19-26

... for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,

so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

1. The courage to trust Him to finish what he started in you.

And I am sure of this, Phil. 1:6

- absolute confidence

- settled conviction

...that He who began a good work in you..

I give them eternal life and they will never perish and no one will snatch them out of my hand. Jn. 10:28

... who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:5

... will bring it to completion.

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy. Jude 24

... to perfect; to fully complete.

In this world...

- uncertain?

- unsure?

- insecure?

Health; finance; weather; friends; jobs; governments; house, car, things.

Unfinished Projects

Unfinished Projects

Unfinished Projects

... at the day of Jesus Christ.

The Rapture?
The 2nd coming?
Death?

Definition – When I see Jesus!

He who calls you is faithful,
He will surely do it. 1 Thess. 5:24

“When God saves – He saves completely and eternally.” John MacArthur Jr.

Confident!

- God speaks truth!
- God's power can carry it out!
- God is never surprised!
- God never gets distracted!

2. The courage to honor Him in life and death.

... with full courage now as always. Phil.1:20

Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or death.

It is about Him not me.

It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. Gal. 2:20

We "present our bodies as a living sacrifice – holy acceptable to God"
Rom. 12:1

For to me to live is Christ (21a)

For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. Rom. 14:8

Video Kathi Lee Gifford remembers

Frank Gifford (3:20-4:20)

If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me (22)

But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus to testify to the Gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24

"One more for Jesus!"

Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all...

... for your progress and joy

in the faith. (25)

"God I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life that I burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life but a full one like you, Lord Jesus."

Jim Elliot

3. The Courage to see the gain
in death.

“I don’t want to go to the heaven that I learned about when I was a kid. To me, it seems boring. The idea that you’re going to lounge around on a cloud all day and listen to guys play harps? I don’t want to listen to harps. I want to listen to Jerry Lee Lewis!”

Stephen King

To die is gain... (21)

Heaven?

- Experience the glory of God

(...Will appear with Him in glory- Col. 3:4)

- New body - (2 Cor. 5:1) (Phil. 3:21)

- At home with the Lord – (2 Cor. 5:8)

- At a place prepared for me by the Lord – (Jn. 14:3)

- To always be with Jesus – (1 Thess. 4:17)

- To be free of suffering

Rev 21:4 – “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

- To walk the streets of pure gold (Rev. 21:2)

- To be free of Satan and sin’s influence (Rev. 20:10; 21:27)

- To reign with Christ – (Rev. 22:5)

- Love fills everyone all the time –

(1 Cor. 13:13)

... to depart and be with Christ,

for that is far better. (23)

- to loose anchor

- to break camp

- to pack up

- to close up shop

“We are not weaned from the world by affliction through faith, but are only weaned off the world by the sight of something better.” Kyle Strobel

... deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to life long slavery. Heb. 2:15