

# The Big Circumstance

Reasons for Joy / Philippians #3  
(Philippians 1:18-26)



## I. Problem: Too many of us are living only “Under the Circumstances.”

Bad News: The Big Circumstance is \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. Paul’s Amazing, Joy-filled Message to the Philippians (& Us)...

A. The paradoxical report: Negative events have led to positive results.

B. Paul’s secret...

1. He has an “over the circumstances,” God-sized PERSPECTIVE.
2. He has an “over the circumstances,” Christ-led PURPOSE (Evangelism!).
3. He has an “over the circumstances,” Holy Spirit filled POWER (Evangelism!).
  - a. Results to come = “my deliverance,” “Christ honored” & “your progress and joy”
  - b. Agency = “your prayer” & “the help of the Spirit”

C. Paul’s Conclusion: **“For me to live is Christ & to die is gain.”**

1. **“To die is gain”** – Paul’s internal question: “Would I rather live or die?”
2. **“To live is Christ”** – This makes possible the real & true “gain through death.”
3. **“To me”** – Paul has made a transforming discovery and applied it to his life.

## III. Conclusion

Knowing & serving the Living God, who is Lord over all circumstances, is the way to find joy under our circumstances —whatever they may be— including the biggest circumstance, the fact of physical death.

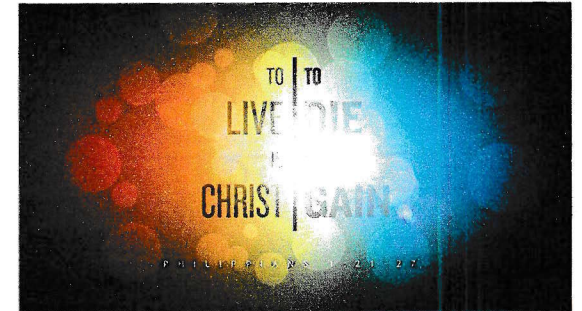
Good News: **THE BIG CIRCUMSTANCE** (in Life & in Death) is. \_\_\_\_\_

Death be not proud,  
though some have  
called thee

Mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not so,  
For those whom thou think’st thou dost overthrow,  
Die not, poor death, nor yet can’st thou kill me...

One short sleep past, we wake eternally,  
And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die.

- John Donne, Holy Sonnets, 10



Covenant Presbyterian Church  
of  
Reno, Nevada

May 18, 2025

# Service for The Lord's Day

## May 18, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

- Philippians 1:21

*We Gather to Rejoice in Our Lord & Savior*

Prelude

Nancy Tedford, piano

Welcome and Church Family News

Pastor Jay Hull

Call to Worship      **Isaiah 25:1, 6-9**

Gerry Dunlap

*Leader: O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name,*

**People: for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.**

*Leader: On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.*

**People: And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever;**

*Leader: And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,*

**People: And the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.**

*Leader: It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.*

**People: This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."**

*We Worship Jesus Christ in Whom & for Who We Live*

\*Songs of Praise

Samuel Dueñas & the CPC Praise Band

"Your Grace Is Enough"

"Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

[CCLI License #246069]

\*Time of Greeting

Children's Prayer Time

Katie Guerrero

Prayer of Confession, Word of Assurance  
& Gloria Patri (#734)

Time of Offering

Special Music

"Gratitude"

Samuel Dueñas

\*Doxology (#731) & Prayer of Thanksgiving

*God's Word Calls Us to Honor Christ in Life & in Death*

\*Hymn of Preparation "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" #334

Scripture Reading:

**Philippians 1:18-26 (p.980)**

Message:

The Big Circumstance  
(Reasons for Joy / Philippians #3)

Pastor Jay

*We Depart to Be with Christ*

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

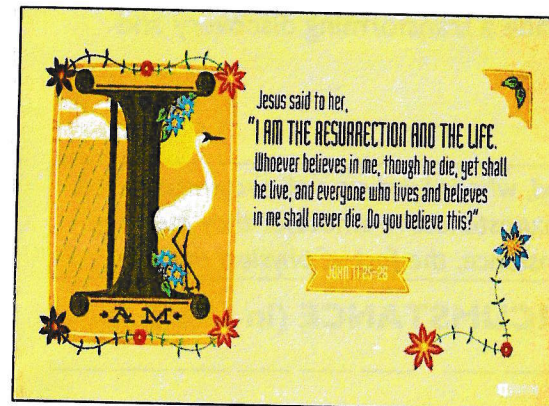
*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

\*Closing Hymn

"Thine Be the Glory"

#274

\*Charge & Benediction



\*Postlude

Nancy Tedford,  
organ

\* indicates to stand if  
you are able