

The Irreducible Minimum

Philippians 1:18b-26

¹⁸ . . . Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.¹

If you could analyze, synthesize, and boil your life down to its basic elements, what would it consist of? For the apostle Paul, the irreducible minimum of his life was Jesus Christ.

Christ is my Motive: “*I want Christ to be glorified in my life.*” (18b-20)

Christ is my Focus: “*I will serve Christ to the very end.*” (21-24)

Christ is my Strength: “*I will help others grow in Christ.*” (25-26)

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.