

Speaker: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

Title: "To Die is Gain"

Text: Philippians 1:21

INTRODUCTION

- Through nature, God helps us understand what it means to gain by dying

- Seeds that are planted

(John 12:24)

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."

- The caterpillar
- Animals that molt

- Sin caused death, God through Jesus Christ conquered death.

(1 Corinthians 15:55-58)

Paul says, "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

PAUL GIVES US 4 FACTS OF GAINING

(1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

- From corruption to incorruption.
- From dishonor to honor.
- From weakness to power.
- From natural to spiritual.

PAUL SAYS, "I DIE DAILY"

(1 Corinthians 15:31)

"I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily."

Living the Christian life is a process of dying daily.

- The old life consists of the works of the flesh.

(Galatians 5:19 & 21)

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish

ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God

- Therefore, Paul says “we are wretched”

(Romans 7:24)

“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

- Who will deliver? – Jesus

(1 Corinthians 15:57)

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ

- How? – Paul says by dying

(Galatians 2:20)

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me”

- Believe in Jesus, accept Him as Lord and Savior

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

- If you believe in Christ, you have passed from death to life.

(John 3:14)

“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death”

- (Corinthians 15:50-52)

“50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed”

- Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God (Verse 50)
- We have a hope to live again (Verse 51)

That’s why “dying is gain”