

To be with Christ

The resurrected Christ is seated in heaven “at the right hand of the throne of God” Hebrews 12.2, and the apostle Paul had “a desire to depart and be with Christ.” Philippians 1.23.

Paul knew that at his death (or departure) his spirit (as a Christian believer) would leave his body and go immediately into Christ's presence in heaven. This he strongly desired.

Commenting on this, he said, “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 5.8.

However, we don't have to wait to enjoy Christ's (and the heavenly Father's) presence with us right now. Jesus said, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” John 14.23.

Because of this current *spiritual* presence with Father and Son, the apostle Paul put aside his desire to be immediately in Christ's *physical* presence in heaven.

Paul understood that God still had work for him on earth. Philippians 1.24. Indeed God has work for every believer who is still alive on earth.

Are we, right now, fulfilling that purpose?

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When Christians die they have just begun to live!

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