

Title: Driven by eternity I – to live is Christ
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Death? Death is a scary topic for most.

Beautiful obituary – Alta Guess. Daily Dispatch. (3 Feb 2012) *“Alta passed away peacefully on 01.02.02012 in EL in her 55th year. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her loving husband Kevin, Sons Jason and Seaton, Mother Willie Schultz, Brothers Willem, Johan and theuns Oosthuizen and sister Magda Oosthuizen. We were truly blessed to have had such an incredible wife, mother and friend. Her dynamic manner and caring heart touched many people’s lives in various ways. She will be remembered forever. A Wonderful angel of God, someone who lived life to the fullest and who had tremendous character in everything she did and achieved. Her love for nature, her family and friends will be greatly cherished. Till we meet again, may you rest in peace.”*

Death? It has a positive impact on us.

Obituary ... Block Michael (Samuel) - *a loving husband, my soul-mate and friend. My heart is shattered and I cannot begin to explain the emptiness I feel, but God saw your pain and called you by your name. I will love you always. Your wife Lollo (Ou Ding)*

Death? It can also have negative impact on us: *Always of good courage - To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord! (2 Cor 5:6)*

Why speak of Eternity?

Colossians 3:1–2 (ESV) ¹ *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.* ² *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

- **“If then you were raised with Christ” – living from a place of victory**
- **Living from a place of failure - We become earthly again if our minds are set on earthly things**
***“Aim at heaven and receive heaven and earth. Aim at earth and receive neither.”* What are you aiming at?
- **Our destiny** – To be change agents / Heaven come to earth
 - **Or: Conformed agents (*secret agents!) / What are we pursuing!?** What should we pursue?

Life motto - *To live is Christ, to die is gain

Philippians 1:21–24 (ESV) ²¹ ***For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*** ²² *If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.* ²³ *I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.* ²⁴ *But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.*

Christ-centred life

- ***My desire is for Him!*** *“My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better”*

Mission-focused life

You will live a Mission-focused life: **“To live is Christ...”** A very defined mission. That mission is Christ.

“But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account:” “For the sake of the mission, I need to stay...”

You will produce fruit

A life worthy of Christ

Philippians 1:27–28 (ESV) ²⁷ *Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.*

Manner of life be worthy – Our message is powerless if our lifestyle doesn't back it up. **Many a Christian has confessed Christ with their mouths, but denied Him by their lifestyle.*

****Only behave as “citizens” worthy of the gospel...** Phil 3:20 *our citizenship is in heaven... / We are citizens from another kingdom.*

Standing firm + in unity – for the sake of the mission we need so stand together.

Unity – eternal mindset causes us to be united. Unified. Stand together. We know relationships will continue in heaven! That is our best investment ever! / **One spirit** – seated with Christ in the heavenlies / **One mind** – eternally minded, not earthly minded / **One mission** – striving side by side for the faith of the gospel

Conclusion

What will be your last words? Here are some from other people:

“Nothing matters. Nothing matters” (Louis B. Mayer, film producer; died October 29, 1957).

“It is very beautiful over there” (Thomas Edison, inventor; died October 18, 1931; he may have been referring to the view outside of his window).

“I’m bored with it all” (Winston Churchill, statesman; died January 24, 1965; after saying this, he slipped into a coma and died nine days later).

“Am I dying, or is this my birthday?” (Lady Nancy Astor; died 1964; after waking briefly during her last illness and finding all her family around her).

“Why, yes, a bulletproof vest” (Domonic Willard, a foot soldier during the Prohibition, just before his death by firing squad, in response to being asked if he had any last requests).

“Don’t let me die; I have got so much to do” (Huey Long, “The Kingfish,” governor of and senator from Louisiana; died 1935).

“My work is done. Why wait?” (George Eastman, inventor; died 1932; from his suicide note).

“Jesus, I love you. Jesus, I love you” (Mother Teresa; died September 5, 1997).¹

Change agents or merely conform to this world? Anchored in the heavenlies, fearless, Christ-centred, Mission-focused and lives worthy of Christ? Must become eternally minded. To live is Christ. To die is gain!!

¹ Larson, C. B., & Ten Elshof, P. (2008). *1001 illustrations that connect* (237). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.