Philippians 1:19-26 - The Joy of Knowing God's Purpose!

Scriptures:

Acts 4:8 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel...

Philippians 2:17 - Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

2 Timothy 4:18 - And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

¹⁹ For I know that this will turn out for my



4991 - salvation

1223 - because of

1162 – plea, request, petition, divine entreaty 2024 – provision, support, help



4151

Notes:

Paul ended the last paragraph saying that the furtherance of the gospel was the main thing. If that was happening, he would rejoice, even if the motivation of some of the people doing it was wrong.

'this will turn out' – Even though Paul's circumstances looked grim, he was confident in God's ultimate salvation. Paul's confidence came from his awareness of their prayers for him which would release the infinite supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

All Christians always have all of the Holy Spirit all of the time. But there are times when they are 'filled' with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8). Paul believed that their prayers would continue to supply Paul with his spiritual needs in the Holy Spirit.

Paul was confident but it was not self-confidence or self-sufficiency.

Paul had hope enough in Christ to see past his circumstances, but he was also a realist (Phil. 2:17).

'poured out' = to die

'deliverance' – Paul is referring to the final deliverance which occurs when we stand before Christ (2 Tim. 4:18).

Paul was convinced that God's good would come out of his current circumstances. This was not because of his great faith or because he had some spiritual credit that obligated God. He was convinced that their prayers of love mixed with the Spirit of God that the supernatural was possible.

Here is the great Apostle Paul describing the value of the prayers of the humble Philippians. It doesn't take men or women to move God's heart to act – it takes humble men and women of faith.

Paul knew enough about the Philippians to know that they pray for him. As a pastor, it brings me great joy and comfort to know that there are people in the church who are praying for me.

Their prayers and what the Holy Spirit would provide would be sufficient for Paul's needs.

1 John 2:28 - And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope

603 – excited expectation – 'eager anticipation n. — an intensely desired expectation with a high confidence of fulfillment.'

1680 – looking forward to in confident expectation

Notes

Because Paul kept the gospel the main thing, he was confident that Christ would be honored by his life.

The symbol for the American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society is an ox standing between an altar and a plow with the motto, "Ready for either".

Paul wasn't certain if he would be released from prison or martyred. But either way he expected the name of Christ to be exalted.

'ashamed' – "Be disappointed by the failure of divine help." (Mounce, 1990) page 1323

that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all

153 – 'to be ashamed v. — to be or become characterized by feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment, or remorse.'

boldness, as always, so now also Christ

3954 – courag confidence, frankness

will be magnified in my body, whether by life or

3170 – honor highly, glorify 2222 -



2288 -



Scriptures: 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.

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.

1 Corinthians 12:13 - For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 599 - 2771 - profi

Notes:

If you live for this world, then to die is the loss of all things.

"In these four senses, he might well say, 'For to me to live is Christ' – to know Christ more, to imitate Christ more, to preach Christ more, and to enjoy Christ more." (Spurgeon, 2015) – page 25

'to die is gain' - Only a true Christian could make this claim. Paul knew that death frees him from all sin, from all doubts and temptations. It frees him from pain, physical. Emotional, spiritual. There is no fear or worry. He would be out of the reach of all enemies and safe from any harm. And the greatest gain of all is to be in the presence of his Blessed Savior.

"To die is gain because in the absence of life's limitations union with Christ will be completely realized." (Mounce, 1990) page 1323

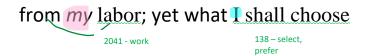
In these bodies we cannot know Christ as well as we should (1 Cor. 13:12). But once we put off these earthly vessels, our bodies, and are joined to Christ in heaven, we will see him perfectly.

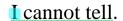
²² But if / live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit

4561 – corporeal mass of human, physical body, physical nature 2590 - outcome

Notes:

"Of course the choice was not really up to him anyway." (Lightner, 2004) page 652





1107 – know, tell

Scriptures: Psalm 16:11 - You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

2 Corinthians 12:1-4 - It is doubtless not profitable for me to hoast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows-such a one was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having

4912 - distressed

a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far

1939 - longing

360 - to die

4183/3123 – 'many times/more'

more we shall participate in that which makes the joy of heaven." (Spurgeon, 2015) page 37

2908 - superior

better.

Notes

Paul is sharing his heart here. He is comparing the glory of eternity with Christ and a life bearing spiritual fruit to Christ. Both are good, one is better for Paul and the other is better for those Paul is called to minister to.

Paul had gotten a glimpse of heaven (2 Cor. 12:1-4). Paul knew it was far better because he had seen it.

Paul had lived a hard life as a Christian. To depart and be with Christ would mean he would be delivered from the persecution and sufferings of his life and find rest in Christ from all his labors.

Death is always better for the Christian. Whether you are a child, teenager, young adult, grown, married, with children, grandparent, or aged senior citizen, departing and going to heaven is far better. A moment in heaven is infinitely better than a long, full, prosperous life on earth

'desire to depart' – Paul was not considering suicide. Paul's life was not his to take. Hiis life belonged to Christ – only God could take it.

'to depart' carries the idea of a ship casting off its mooring lines and setting sail on the ocean. A ship is better suited for the seas than it is for the port.

'be with Christ' – Heaven is amazing! It will be filled with great and awesome creatures and angels. There will be sights and sounds beyond human description. All of our loved ones and friends who have died believing in Christ will be there. But greater than all of that – so much greater as to make those things of little significance will be the presence of Christ.

"...if heaven is to be with Christ, then the nearer we get to Christ here, the

²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is

continue

4561 -

Paul is exceptionally self-aware. He knows what is best for him but then he also knows what is good for those

In the previous message we saw that Paul was gospel-focused, and here in this text we see he was also others focused. These two things are two sides of a coin. You cannot be gospel-centered without being others-centered.

"Personal desire gives way to spiritual need." (Mounce, 1990) page 1323

more needful for you.

316 - necessary

Scriptures:

²⁵ And being confident of this, know that shall

3982 - convinced

remain and continue with you all for your

4839 - stay with

Notes:

"Christ was more important to him than life itself, and others were more important to him than being in Heaven with Christ." (Hughes, 2013) page 62

Paul was convinced that God was not finished with him and he would return to minister to them again. This is not based on prophetic insight, but just an internal sense of God's will.



advancement

happiness

5479 – gladness 4102 – state f certainty with regard to belief



boasting

Notes

Paul was convinced that his work to further the gospel was not done yet – this was why he was confident that he would be delivered from his current circumstances.

may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my

4052 – be in abundance

coming to you again.

<u>Top of Section</u> <u>Top of Chapter</u>