

## Paul's Eternal Perspective Magnified

**Philippians 1:19-26** For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, 26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

I) Previous section ends with

A) **Philippians 1:16-18** The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, ... to add affliction to my chains; <sup>17</sup> but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. <sup>18</sup> What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and **in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.**

1) **Note\*\*** Paul's joy, his pleasure, his happiness are not connected to anything ephemeral. Paul's life is centered on Jesus Christ and anything extraneous to Him is simply a distraction and has no merit.

II) **Phil 1:19-21** For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

A) What gave Paul satisfaction was seeing people hear about the salvation available through the grace and mercy God delivered in the sacrifice of His One and Only Son.

1) Paul was laser focused and was content

(a) **Philippians 4:11-13** Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: <sup>12</sup> I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup> I can **endure** all things through Christ who strengthens me.

(b) **1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

2) How much of our discontentment stems from the complexity of our lives??

(a) One of the buzz words today is 'multitasking'

(i) How well can someone do one job if simultaneously they are expected to accomplish 5 other tasks??

(b) Paul had one single purpose. He was committed and had no degree of deviation

(i) New Am. Comm.- "The commitments which drove him in his life now kept him as he contemplated his death."

(ii) "One thing I do..."

(iii) **John 9:25** He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. **One thing I know**: that though I was blind, now I see."

(iv) **Philippians 3:13-14** Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but **one thing I do**, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

<sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- For years that was taped to the mirror in my bathroom. I saw it every morning. I generally failed most of the time but my intention desire was chasing after Christ.
- So why did I fail?? Got distracted by other stuff

B) So what application is there for us??

- 1) **Phi 1: 22-23** But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.
- 2) Paul had serious issues!! How many of us have a daily concern about whether or not we will die that day?? Typically not many
  - (a) Christianity was not a crime at this point but the emperor had never really dealt with it formally. Paul would be the guinea pig.
- 3) Yes we have serious issues to deal with each day but nothing of this magnitude.
  - (a) BUT!!! WE CAN MAKE THE SIMPLEST ISSUE INTO THE WORST SITUATION IN OUR OWN IMAGINATION!!
  - (b) One of the most effective attacks Satan makes is against our mind. We can what if and how about things to death.
    - (i) Under Satan's influence we experience doubt and concern and confusion. We worry and we allow ourselves to think that problem x will be result in our demise.
    - (ii) Paul's mentality regarding death... So what. To die to see Christ face to face. To die is walk into the mansion prepared personally for you.
    - (iii) When Paul thought of death, which we believe to be the worst thing we can experience. Paul responded with Big Deal.

III) What we need is a Perspective shift

- A) What if we truly lived our lives intent on one purpose, that Jesus Christ would be seen in our lives??
    - 1) First off, we can do that without selling everything and moving to Uganda.
    - 2) We all have our little area of influence. What if we just purposed that we would show Christ where we are??
      - (a) Yes, making a living is important and it has to be done.
      - (b) Paul was a tent maker and we know that he often supported himself in his work by finding other tentmakers and working for or with them
        - (i) **Acts 18:1-3** <sup>1</sup> After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. <sup>3</sup> So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.
- B) What if regardless of the position we find ourselves in we truly committed to 'God glorify yourself in me.'
  - 1) How would it feel to be a vessel of the pleasure of God everyday??
  - 2) How would life look if the focus was on the eternal lives of others??
  - 3) How stressed would we be if we engaged in His work first and relied on Him for everything??
  - 4) How can you show Christ today??

IV) Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;