

SERMON OUTLINE NOTES

I. THE CONTEXT OF PAUL'S DILEMMA (PHILIPPIANS 1:18B-21)

- A. Knowing our final deliverance is secure is reason to rejoice (Philippians 1:18b-19)
 - 1. Paul is resolved to rejoice because of his salvation (Habakkuk
 - 2. Paul knows that God works through means (Philippians 1:19; 2 Corinthians 1:8-11)
- B. Magnifying Christ whether by life or by death takes courage (Philippians 1:20-21)
 - 1. We have a great example to follow in Paul. He sought to magnify Christ in everything event at great expense to himself (Philippians 1:20; Acts 20:24)
 - 2. Christ is central to both life and death (Philippians 1:21; 3:7-11; 1 Peter 3:18; Psalm 16:11)

II. EVALUATING THE OPTIONS OF THE DILEMMA (PHILIPPIANS 1:22-24)

- A. What does it mean "to live is Christ"? (Philippians 1:21–22)
 - 1. "To live is Christ" means fruitful labor for us (Philippians 1:22)
 - 2. Fruitful labor of disciple-making gospel ministry (Philippians 1:5; Colossians 1:28–29; 4:3–4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1–2)
- B. Paul has two options that create a dilemma (Philippians 1:22b-24)
 - 1. Option #1 = remain alive, which means fruitful labor in disciple-making gospel ministry for the necessity of others (Philippians 2:17)
 - 2. Option #2 = to depart from this world and be present with Christ, which is better by far (Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9)
 - 3. No matter what option Paul takes, there is joy lurking around every corner (Romans 15:13)

III. PAUL ARRIVES AT A RESOLUTION (PHILIPPIANS 1:25-26)

- A. Paul is convinced that he will not be put to death (Philippians 1:25)
- B. As fellow Christians, our life's purpose is the same as Paul's: fruitful, joyous labor in disciple-making gospel ministry for the sake of others' progress and joy in gospel faith (Philippians 1:25; 2 Corinthians 1:24; Romans 15:13)
- C. And all of this is for God's glory not our own (Philippians 1:26; John 3:30; Galatians 2:20)

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18A

What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, 20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 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. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

