

Choose Joy: The Book of Philippians

Part 4 (Philippians 1:19-30)

Philippians 1:19-30 (NKJV)

(19) 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.

(27) Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

(28) and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

(29) For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

(30) having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

I. Confidence in God's Power to Deliver. Things will turn out for the best. (1:19-20)

A. ¹⁹ For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

i. Paul was confident that he would be delivered through their prayers,

ii. And through the provisions of Christ.

B. 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.

i. He had an eager expectation and hope that he had no

- reason to be ashamed.
- ii. He was determined to continue to speak with the same boldness as before.
- iii. He was determined to magnify Christ in his body whether it was in life or by being put to death.

II. What it truly means to live and die. (1:21-26)

A. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

- i. He knew that remaining alive would mean continuing to preach Christ.
- ii. He knew that his death at the hands of the Romans would mean reward because he would be with Christ his savior.

B. 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.

- i. If he lived, it would mean he would continue to work for the Lord and see the fruit of his labor.
- ii. He was torn between going to be with Christ and staying on earth.
- iii. He believed it would be far better for them if he remained alive.

C. 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. He was certain that God would allow him to see this beloved group of saints once again.
- ii. He looked forward to seeing their rejoicing in Christ because of his reunion with them.

III. Live the Gospel. (1:27-30)

A. ²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

- i. He encouraged them to live worthy of the gospel of Christ.
 - 1. This was to be the case in his presence.
 - 2. This was to be the case in his absence.
- ii. They should be unified in one spirit.

iii. They were to not be afraid of their adversaries.

B. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

- i. They were privileged not only for salvation but for suffering for Christ.
- ii. He was an example of suffering for one's faith in Christ.
 1. He suffered and was imprisoned in Philippi for the cause of Christ. (Acts 16:16-24)
 2. He suffered and was imprisoned in Rome as an example to them.

IV. Summary

A. Be confident in God's power to deliver in all circumstances.

B. To live is Christ and to die is gain!

C. Live worthy of the gospel of Christ.