

## **Should I Stay or Should I Go?**

### **Philippians 1:18e-22**

*“...yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, 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. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.”*

#### **Outline:**

1. Deliverance (vs 19)
  - a. Temporally? (vs 20)
  - b. Eternally? (vs 20)
2. Devotion / Honor Christ (vs 20)
  - a. Life, Fruitful Labor (vs 22)
  - b. Death, Eternal Gain (vs 20, Hebrews 9:27, “Crossing the Bar”)
3. Delight! (vs 20, 21, Matthew 25:21)

#### **Questions for Small Group Discussion:**

1. What does Paul mean by “the help of the Spirit of Jesus” in verse 19?
2. When Paul talks about his death or departure, what imagery do his words employ?
3. Paul displays singular devotion. What prevents you from completely adopting his model?
4. Consider the Philippians 1:21 test for yourself: For to me to live is \_\_\_\_\_, and to die is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Fill in the blanks for the Philippians 1:21 test with as many common idols as you can identify.