

Scripture Reading: Philippians 1:21-26 [NKJV]

Introduction:

Here Paul speaks of his personal situation which involved a struggle of sorts regarding his future.

In speaking of his personal situation, he reveals a good deal about his character.

Now for tonight:

Subject: "To Die is Gain"

I. **The Devotion of Paul (Philippians 1:21)**

Philippians 1:21 (NKJV)

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

These words reveal a dedication of excellence that is unexcelled in character.

• **The Person in the devotion.** "For to me to live *is* Christ."

Paul's whole life was wrapped up in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Today many young people idolize some vile entertainer.

Others are devoted to a politician or some other famous person.

But to be devoted to Christ is the greatest of all devotions.

• **The priority in the devotion.** "For to me to live *is* Christ."

This means that Christ comes first in one's life.

• **The passion in the devotion.** "Live."

Paul's whole life was devoted to Christ.

• **The purifying from the devotion.** "For to me to live *is* Christ."

No devotion will so purify one's life as devotion to Christ.

II. **The Death of Paul (Philippians 1:21)**

Philippians 1:21 (NKJV)

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

Paul speaks of the blessing [to him] of his death.

• **The requirement for such a death.** "To die *is* gain."

Paul could say this because he had met the requirements.

To most people, death will be a horrifying loss because they have not met the requirements for gain in death.

- **The reward for such a death.** "Gain."

When the redeemed die it is "gain" not loss.

"Gain" includes such blessings as the end of suffering and sorrow ([Revelation 21:4](#)).

Revelation 21:4 (NKJV)

⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Also, much exaltation ([Revelation 20:6](#)) in that they shall reign with Christ.

Revelation 20:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

III. **The Dilemma of Paul** ([Philippians 1:22-26](#))

"*What I shall choose I wot not... I am in a strait betwixt two*" ([Philippians 1:22, 23](#)) KJV.

Philippians 1:22-23 (NKJV)

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.

Paul faced a dilemma about living.

- **The specifics of the dilemma.**

Philippians 1:23-24 (NKJV)

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.

The dilemma was that death was better for him, but to stay alive was better for the Philippian believers.

- **The submission in the dilemma.**

First, the priority in submission. "*I shall abide and continue with you*" ([Philippians 1:25](#)) KJV.

Philippians 1:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

Second, the price of the submission.

Philippians 1:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

Third, the product of the submission.

Philippians 1:25-26 (NKJV)

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.

The product of Paul's submission was spiritual
benefits for the Philippian believers.

Close: What are your “priorities” about “living” and
“dying.”

Are you burdened about “glorifying Christ” and about
“helping others?”

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