

# Philippians 1:18b-26

## Depth of Insight

### 1. Perspective: The Spiritual Reality vs. 18b-20

Although Paul faces affliction, he continues to rejoice in the Philippian's prayers and God's provision of the Holy Spirit, as despite appearances, God is still sovereign over the affairs of his life; to be empowered to persevere with "sufficient courage" and ultimately to stand before God as one of God's redeemed people

Although in this life we will experience trouble, may we rejoice in the prayers and God's provision of the Holy Spirit because God is still sovereign over the affairs of our life. Through depending on God, He will empower us to persevere with sufficient courage and ultimately stand before God as one of God's redeemed.

#### Questions:

- How do your priorities in life affect those around you? Do others see the gospel as a priority in your life and become more confident in the Lord?
- What changes do you need to make to your lifestyle to demonstrate that the gospel and Christ's honor are your top priorities?

### 2. Perspective: Theological Focus vs. 21-24

Paul's life is Christ. Paul's entire existence is defined by the life he has in his Lord. Therefore, Paul cannot lose Paul because he is in Christ. With this perspective....

- Paul is energized to live out the responsibilities and roles that God has given him
- Paul sees each step worth doing as he had the mindset that each step has eternal significance.
- Paul is willing to wait on God's timing in going home to be with the Lord.

If our life is in Christ then our whole existence is defined by the life we have in the Lord. With God, we cannot lose, as our life is in Christ. With this perspective...

- We are energized to live out the responsibilities and roles that God has given him
- We see each step worth doing as he had the mindset that each step has eternal significance.
- We are willing to wait on God's timing in going home to be with the Lord.

## Questions:

- What does it look like to approach life (work, family, relationships, possessions, success, reputation, etc.) with this attitude of being fruitful in the partnership of the gospel?
- As Paul thinks about his potential death, he says, "I desire to depart and to be with Christ, for that is far better." Is this how you normally think about life and death? If so, why? And if not, why not?
- The Apostle Paul clearly wants the Philippians (and us) to follow his example in desiring to depart and be with Christ. What obstacles might be keeping you from thinking or desiring this?

## 3. Perspective: Joy & Rejoicing Vs. 25-26

Paul explains to the church of Philippi that joy is not connected to outward circumstances but with the deep joy in the Lord that grows his contentment, as he witnesses the advancement of the gospel, and acknowledging publicly what God's power has done.

For many, joy is not a reality because their focus is on outward circumstances. Those who are in Christ can choose to experience deep joy because their identity is in Christ; a relationship with God that allows us to witness the advancement of the gospel and inspires us to acknowledge publicly what God's power has done.

## Questions:

- This passage makes clear that suffering and death don't actually hinder the gospel, but unleash it. How do we live with both hope and joy as God's people in spite of this reality?