

GSM

Philippians 1:20-26

I. Philippians 1:20

A. **according-** Gr. **kata-** this word carries a downward element in it. Paul's confidence in being delivered was being held down and dominated by his earnest expectation.

B. **earnest expectation-** Gr. **apokaradokia-** from **apo-** *away/off*; **kara-** *head*; **dokia-** *to look or consider carefully-* This word means to turn your head away and off of one object and look steadfastly and consider carefully another object.

1. Paul chose to take his attention off his chains and those who were persecuting him and instead turned his head to look steadfastly at Christ and His promise of deliverance
2. We do not have a choice whether to encounter trials or not, but in each trial we do have a choice where we will look. We can look at our circumstances- our health, our pocket book, other people, or ourselves. If we do this we will be defeated. However, we can turn our head away and our gaze off those things and turn our head towards the promises of God and look at them intently. They will produce hope and faith in us.

C. **hope-** Gr. **elpis-** *confident expectation-* not a wish; but a *confident expectation* that is birthed by the Word and Spirit. Paul had a confident expectation which kept him at peace in his situation because of the witness of the Spirit and the promises of the Word of God.

D. **ashamed-** Gr. **aischune-** *This word came from the name of a Greek goddess Aischune.* She was a beautiful woman who many were jealous of. Greek mythology tells of Aphrodite being so jealous of her that she put a curse upon her. When she looked into the mirror she would have a ghastly appearance of a monster. But in truth, her real beauty was not diminished one bit. It was only her reflection changed.

1. Paul could have looked around at his circumstances and been ashamed. He could have looked at his chains and at the prison walls he was in and could have gotten ashamed of his stand for Christ. He chose to look away from these to Christ and the gospel- the reasons he was there.
2. Satan will always try to get us to look at our past and present circumstances and get us ashamed of our selves. He wants us to believe that we are failures and something God is ashamed of. This is deception. God sees you righteous, holy, and pure in His sight. If you

will look away from the mirror of shame that Satan wants you to look into, and turn your focus upon the mirror of God's Word you will be filled with hope and faith. You can hold up your head high no matter what is happening and who is talking about you! Your beauty in Christ is undiminished no matter what happens to you!

E. **all boldness**- Gr. **parrhesia**- *all freedom of speech*

1. No matter what any tells you we will never lose our freedom to speak. You might be killed for speaking up, but no one can shut you up unless they cut out your tongue! The Devil sent pressure on Paul to shut him up at all costs. He had hoped to get Paul to be ashamed of his chains and imprisonment and shut up but it did not work. Paul opened up his mouth even more and spoke more boldly than ever!

2. The Devil throws everything at you to get you to shut and stop speaking God's Word. Satan does not care about you, but He is afraid of the Word of God which is spoken in faith. Bad things happen to him and his kingdom when the Word of God is spoken out of the mouth of a believer! Don't let him shut you up by intimidation or shame!

F. **Magnified in my body**- magnified- Gr. **megaluno**- *mega- to make great or bigger.*

1. Paul's body became a magnifying lens for people to look through and see the greatness of God.

2. There are two types of magnifiers- **telescopes and microscopes**

a. microscopes make small things look bigger than they really are- **microscopes distort**

b. telescopes make really big things that look small appear as they really are- big- **telescopes brings reality into focus**

c. microscopes are faced **downwards** towards the earth

d. telescopes are faced **upwards** toward heaven

3. God created you to magnify things. You are magnifying something in your life. What you are magnifying depends on which direction your focus is. If it is on the earth and the things of the earth then they will be magnified. The small and insignificant things of earth will loom large to you. Small slights of people will be huge to you! If you put your focus on God and His Word then He will be made larger and more important to you. You will tap into the power of what you focus on!

4. God seems so far away to most people. His presence seems so far away. God has called you to magnify Him so people can see just how big He is and how good He really is. He is a God of grace and love.

He is a God of power and deliverance. Look to Christ and trust Him in your trial and He will be magnified in your body- actions and words for all to see and to get to know better.

G. **By life or death-** You can be a dying martyr or a living martyr. The word martyr means witness. Being a martyr takes laying down your life- This means laying down your will for God's will. This is a shining witness in the dark world of selfishness and flesh. **If we are not willing to be a living martyr [witness] then we probably would not be willing to be a dying martyr.**

II. Philippians 1:21

A. to live **IS** Christ

1. Paul did not say to live is to be **like** Christ
2. Paul did not say to live is to **follow** Christ
3. Paul did not say to live is to **copy** Christ
4. Paul said for him to live **IS** Christ- Authentic Christianity is no less than Christ expressing His life in and through the life of the believer. Christ desires to live His life in and through us. We are not to so much live **for** Christ, but live **FROM** Christ. His life is the power of the Christian life!
5. All kitchen appliances are designed to do different things but without the "life" of electricity they are all the same- paper weights! Only when they have the same life of electricity flowing through them can they show for their unique purpose for which they were made. The same is with us. When we believers have the same life of Christ expressed through us we will be empowered to fulfill God's unique call on us.

B. die is gain

1. **have died-** Gr. *aor. act. inf.* – past tense- the act of dying is not gain, but the gain is received after we have died and go to the other side.
2. **gain-** Gr. **kerdos-** *word means profit or interest*
 - a. We are benefiting now from the finished work of Christ on the cross but much more awaits us!
 - b. We will reap the full benefits of our salvation after we have died- glorification
 - c. When we have died and pass over we will receive the interest on what **we invested** in our Christian lives- **rewards.**

III. Philippians 1:22-26

A. **vs. 22- But if-** Gr. **ei-** if- first class conditional- *If it be the case...*

B. **fruit of my labor**

1. This is the great secret of the Apostle. This is the mystery and paradox of true Christianity.

2. **Fruit** comes from abiding and drawing from the root

3. **Labor-** Gr. **ergon-** *work-* The source of Paul's work came from abiding in the vine of Christ. His work actually was a manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit and of Christ within Him.

4. Work will no longer seem like work when it comes from the empowerment of the grace of God within.

5. This is the fruit of my labor. What "this" is he referring to? It is what he had just finished saying in vs. 21- **Christ living, teaching, healing, and setting others free in and through him!**

C. **what I choose I know not-** Paul had a decision to make. He could submit to martyrdom or not. This means that our death is not up to the whims of fate. We do not have to submit to death if we know we have not finished what God has for us. We may have an opportunity to die but we can choose to pass it by. You are a superman until God is done with you!

D. **vs. 23- I am in a straight-** Gr. **sunecho-** *pressed by two sides as in a vice.*

1. He was pressed by the intense **desire-** Gr. **epithumia-** *lust-* this word in almost all other places in the N.T. is translated as lust. He had a lust to be with Christ! Do we lust [intensely long] after Christ and His kingdom?

2. **to depart and be with Christ-** depart- Gr. **analuo-** *this word was used of unloosing a ship to set sail and of undoing the tent cords to take down the tent.* Paul was ready to set sail for heaven and undo the cords of his earthly tent [body;life] and go to God's permanent dwelling! Paul was pressed to depart because:

a. Paul had experienced the glories of heaven earlier in his life when he was caught up into paradise- [**2 Cor. 12:4**]

b. He also wanted to be free from the pressures of the world, flesh, and people

c. **It was much better to be with Christ-** If we had a glimpse of glory we would not want to stay. Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to die. Paul did! Early church tradition holds that Paul ran to his execution!

2. vs. 24- He was also being pressed on the other side by the needs of the people of God.

- a. The church still needed Paul's teaching by word and action which would establish their faith.
- b. The young church still needed their father in the faith; it was not ready to stand on its own yet.

3. vs. 25

- a. **having this confidence-** Gr. **peitho-** *persuasion-* perf. participle- Having a settled persuasion.
- b. **I know-** Gr. **eido-** *full knowledge-* perfect tense- Paul knew this full well. He had the inward settled witness on the inside of himself. He knew what God wanted him to do. He was to stay.
- c. It was more necessary for Paul to remain in the flesh- **remain-** Gr. **epimeno-** *to stay or remain over.* It was more necessary and beneficial to the church for Paul to stay over on this side of heaven. God's will was for him to remain over here on earth for a season longer.
- d. **progress of faith-** progress- Gr. **prokope-** *to cut in advance-* This is again the word for an advance troop of woodcutters that blazed a trail for others to follow. Paul was blazing a trail of faith for the church to follow. If Paul left too early before his task was over the young church would be at an impasse and not have direction concerning spiritual matters. Once Paul blazed the path for the church to follow, he was free to go.
- e. Paul could have been martyred right then, but instead he chose to be a living martyr for the people of God. There is no greater love than to lay down your life [desires] for his friends. [**John 15:13**]
- f. There would be a time that it would be more necessary for Paul to leave so the church could stand on its own faith and its own two feet. There was even a time that Jesus said it is more advantageous that I leave you. That time had not arrived yet. We see in 2 Timothy 4 when that time came.

4. Vs. 26

- a. **rejoicing-** Gr. **kauchema-** *lit. boasting*
- b. **abundant-** *overflow*
- c. **in Jesus Christ for me-** Lit. *in Jesus Christ in me.* Many were boasting in knowing Paul. Paul said that his life was all about Christ living in Him. Paul wanted all praise to go to Jesus Christ that was in him.

d. We are tested by the praise we receive- **(Pro 27:21) Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but a person is tested by being praised.** Make sure all praise goes Jesus Christ within you. Without him you are a circle with the center knocked out of it!