

“The Mind of Christ”
Week 3: Philippians 1:18b-26

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Christ Jesus what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always, Christ will be exalted 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 go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two. I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

- 1. What do you think Paul means when he mentions his “deliverance” in verse 19? How would what had happened to him turn out for his deliverance? What were the factors which he was counting on to lead to his deliverance?**

- 2. In verse 20, Paul talks about “eagerly expecting” that he will not be ashamed. What does it mean to “eagerly expect” something? What sorts of things do you “eagerly expect” to happen in your life?**

- 3. Paul’s statement in verse 21 that “to live is Christ and to die is gain” is a very familiar one to most Christians. But what does it mean? How would you explain that statement to someone else – particularly someone who is not a believer, or perhaps is new to the faith?**

- 4. In verse 22, Paul says that if he goes on living in the body it would mean “fruitful labor” for him. What does that mean to you? What thoughts come to your mind when you read that statement?**

5. What do you think about Paul’s conclusion that because it is “more necessary” for the Philippians for him to remain, he is convinced that he would remain? How did that turn out for Paul? Given the way that his situation turned out – that he was not released from prison and was in fact executed – what thoughts come to your mind about his belief that he would “remain”?

6. In verse 26 Paul says that the Philippians “boasting” on account of him would abound through his being with them again. How do we respond when the things that we think should happen – or even expect to happen – don’t happen? What does that respond tell us about our faith? What does it tell us about our priorities?

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