

Philippians

CHAPTER 1:19-26

Lesson 3

For I know that as you pray for me and as the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will all turn out for my deliverance. For I live in eager expectation and hope that I will never do anything that causes me shame, but that I will always be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past, and that my life will always honor Christ, whether I live or I die. For to me, living is for Christ, and dying is even better. Yet if I live, that means fruitful service for Christ. I really don't know which is better. I'm torn between two desires: Sometimes I want to live, and sometimes I long to go and be with Christ. That would be far better for me, but it is better for you that I live. I am convinced of this, so I will continue with you so that you will grow and experience the joy of your faith. Then when I return to you, you will have even more reason to boast about what Christ Jesus has done for me. Philippians 1:19-26 NLT

Paul freely confessed his dilemmas and his confidences regarding his future - life or death. Would he be freed from the bonds of imprisonment through being released or through martyrdom? Either way he was at peace, because either way Christ was all in all to him. As you study this portion of Philippians, ask the Lord to examine your heart and reveal to you any places that might prevent you from having the joy Paul had regarding life and death.

Overview: Read Philippians 1:19-26

1. As Paul wrote Philippians, he expressed confidence in what he believed. His faith was unwavering. Yet, even the strongest of Christians do not have access to all knowledge. Note the words *know*, *confident*, and the phrase *cannot tell* in these verses. List the things Paul knew.
 - a. List the things Paul was not sure of.
2. Record the subjects addressed in Philippians 1:19-26.
3. From the subjects listed above, what title would you give this portion of Philippians?

Read Philippians 1:19,20

1. Philippians 1:18 reflects Paul's rejoicing that, through his imprisonment, the gospel was being preached. The knowledge that his *chains* were not hindering the gospel, but instead promoting and *furthering* it, was like medicine to Paul's soul. Therefore, in Philippians 1:19 he wrote, *For I know this will turn out for my deliverance...* The word *deliverance* can be interpreted as speaking of the well-being of an individual. In addition to the encouraging facts regarding the *furtherance of the gospel*, what two other things did Paul attribute to his *deliverance* or well-being (verse 19)?
 - a. Praying for one another is a powerful gift we have as Christians. In the first part of this chapter, we read one of Paul's prayers for the Philippians. Here, in Philippians 1:19, we read of their prayers for him. This resulted in a true partnership in the gospel. Often, we forget that those in leadership covet our prayers as much as we covet theirs. How does this inspire you to pray more for those who are praying for you?
 - b. The word *supply*, as used in verse 19, means to *supply* fully and abundantly. Describe what the Holy Spirit *supplies* to the believer. (See John 14:26 to begin).
2. According to Philippians 1:20, what is Paul's *earnest expectation*?

Challenge: Define *earnest expectation*.

- a. What does the phrase, *Christ will be magnified in my body*, mean to you?
- b. Read I Corinthians 6:19,20. In what ways can you bring honor to the Lord through your body?

Read Philippians 1:21

1. Fill in the blanks from Philippians 1:21

For to me, to _____ is _____, and to _____ is _____.

2. You cannot say *to die is gain* unless you can say *to live is Christ*. Explain the phrase *to live is Christ*.

- a. According to John 10:10, why did Jesus come?

- 1.) Describe this *abundant life* according to the following verses:

John 14:27

John 15:11

2 Corinthians 1:3,4

James 1:5

1 John 5:14,15

- 2.) What is one of your favorite things about being a Christian?

3. Why is dying *gain* to a Christian?

4. *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep (died), lest you sorrow as others who have no hope* (1 Thessalonians 4:13). God does not want us to be ignorant about death. Record how the following verses describe *death* for the believer?

- a. Job 14:14

- b. Psalm 23:4

Read Philippians 1:25,26

1. In Philippians 1:25, Paul uses both the word *confident* and the word *know*. What was he so sure of?

Challenge: Define the words *confident* and *know*.

2. Paul seemed to have a settled conviction that the servant of the Lord is immortal until his work is done. How would believing this give Paul a peace about whether he should live or die?

3. What was Paul's desire according to Philippians 1:26?

- a. Paul planned to come again to Philippi. Read Romans 1:11,12. These verses are indicative of Paul's goals when he meets with fellow believers. What are his objectives according to these verses?

- b. These goals are prompted by both a love for God and a love for other believers. Take a moment and examine how you spend your time with other Christians and the fruit of that time. What have you learned from Paul's example in this lesson that you can apply to your relationship with God and with others?

Review: Read Philippians 1:19-26

1. Paul began this section of Philippians 1 with the statement, *For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance ...* What can we know about trials we are facing?
2. Using what you gleaned from these verses, describe Paul's attitude.
3. In what ways have you been challenged or encouraged by these verses?

*As for me, God forbid that I should boast about anything
except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Because of that cross, my interest in this world died long ago.....
- Galatians 6:14 NLT*