

Series "Joy In Christ"
"Blessing Of Life And Death"
Philippians 1:20-26
Part-5

This topic of "**Death Benefits**" applies to Christians only. **Philippians 1:23, Hebrews 9:27**

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

For Paul, Death was the bridge between two distinctive expressions of life. It was the **end of an old life**, but it was also the **beginning of a new and glorious life**.

Philippians 1 – Joy In Living: Joy Despite Unfulfilled Desires, Joy Despite Circumstances, Joy Despite Conflicts.

Philippians 1:12-19 Opportunities of Obstacles
Philippians 1:20-26 Blessing of Life and Death
Philippians 1:27-30 Be Good Citizens of Heaven

Thought of our Passage: Paul's Preference Was Heaven, But God's Will Was For Paul To Remain For The Believer's Fruitful Progress In The Faith.

- 1. Verse 20-21 Blessed Dilemma**
- 2. Verses 21-23 Blessing Of Death**
- 3. Verse 24-26 Blessing Of Life**

1. Verse 20-21 Blessed Dilemma:

Philippians 1:20 according to my earnest expectation [Context] Paul was in chains: **Paul saw God In The Obstacles.** Opportunities To Reach The Unsaved, And To Encourage The Believers To Be Bold In Their Own Witness. **Paul's Critics:** Paul Focused On The Message. **Paul's Hope:** Was In God **Philippians 1:19**

according to my earnest Expectation – (Outward Hope) describes "a *spectator that is sitting on the edge of his seat stretching to see.*" **Hope – (Inward Hope)** "*sure expectation of a future event.*"

that I will not be put to shame in anything, "*to put to shame to be disgraced.*"

but that with all boldness, "*freedom to speak out in confidence and boldness*" God's Holy Spirit coming through Paul. **Luke 21:15**

Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, "*magnified*" to make great to enlarge! Our lips, our actions. **John 3:30**

whether by life or by death. Paul's witness in this life (Living out the character of Jesus), Paul's witness unto death, if God calls him to be a martyr with boldness.

This is the mark of a true servant (Minister) of Jesus Christ; our focus in life is the exaltation of Jesus. (Not Self)

Philippians 1:21 For to me, "in my case, in my realization of life" to live is Christ, Paul is speaking for himself. He is saying that for him to live **is Christ.**

Remove "**Christ, is gain**" from the sentence and it will record a tragedy. **For to me, to live _____ and to die_____.** **John 11:25; John 14:6**

Jesus Christ - Origin of life, Essence of life, the Model of life, the Aim of life, Solace of life, the Reward of life. **Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life,**

2. Verses 21-23 Blessing Of Death:

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

and to die is gain. (*"gains, profits"*)

What happens to a Christian when they die?

Acts 7:60; John 11:11; 1 Corinthians 11:30; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-9

Philippians 1:22 But if (since) I am to live on in the flesh, Paul is referring to himself continuing to live on in his body. **Ecclesiastes 8:8**

Paul is expressing his preference

fruitful labor - This spoke of his missionary work. The salvation of sinners, the spiritual growth through teaching of saints, and the establishing of churches

I do not know which to choose. Paul saw in life and death as having both benefits and liabilities. (Benefit – Fruitful, Liability – Absent from the Lord)

Philippians 3:20-21

Philippians 1:23 Dilemma Of Duty Versus Desire: But I am hard-pressed from both directions, "to be pushed in two different directions"

Paul preferred heaven for 3 reasons:

1. Inner Compulsion - But I am hard-pressed from both directions, *"I have pressure on me from two different directions, a person bound that wants to move one of 2 directions but can't, tormented"* Paul actually had a struggle wanting heaven
2 Corinthians 5:14

2. Desire - having the desire - the noun is translated *"lust, describes an inner passion or drive."* to do something.

to depart - *"Analuó"* Greek This is the word which we get our English word *"Analysis"* (*Leave a problem behind*)

It was used in a political sense - *"to free a slave."*

It was used to move on - solving a problem. *"to release a ship free from its moorings."* The breaking of a camp.
(John 1:14; 2 Corinthians. 5:1)

It was used in agriculture - *"To un-yoke the oxen."* There is a setting free from the burdens of life and relationships.

and be with Christ, *The verb indicates eternal fellowship.*
Revelation 22:4

3. Far Better - for that is very much better. Literally, it reads *"much more better."* *In quantity, quality.* **2 Corinthians 12:2-4**

Death Benefit is being taken out of an evil world.

1. Freedom From Sin -
2. Freedom From Pain - People know not a day without pain.
3. Freedom From Burdens - Our hearts are ever breaking over the issues of life.
4. Freedom From Anxiety - Fears

1 John 3:2 we shall be like Him, - We shall be like Him in righteousness.

***Like Him in Righteousness* - Matthew 5:6; 2 Timothy 4:8**

***Like Him in Knowledge* - We know very little. 1 Corinthians 13:9,12**

***Like Him in Love* -**

and be with Christ, for that is very much better; Psalm 116:15

For the Non-Christian - death is the separation of the soul and spirit from God.

For the Christian - death is the separation of the soul and spirit from the body.

For the Christian - death unites the believer with Christ for eternity.

For the Christian it is separation in the sense of...

1. *Christ much and Christ more.*
2. *Christ by faith and Christ by sight.*

Wanting to be with Jesus in heaven should never keep us from our responsibilities on earth. 1 Corinthians 15:58; 1 John 2:28

3. Verse 24-26 Blessing Of Life:

Philippians 1:24 Duty: yet to remain on in the flesh Paul was a servant and as a servant we are here to meet the needs of our master.

is more necessary - The person that makes decision based on love and humility, will always do what is best for others.

your sake. (Love for people) *He knew what he wanted to do, but he also recognized what he had to do.*

Philippians 1:25 Convinced of this, *"innate knowledge" Paul knew instinctively by the deep-seated conviction of the Holy Spirit that he would be set free ("I know,")*

I know that I shall remain and continue with you all *"to remain with them beside them."*

for your progress and joy - That this would result in a change life.

in the faith, Philippi believers' faith would grow.

Philippians 1:26 so that your proud confidence in me may abound - It speaks of running over. *"more abundant" It would be full and running over constantly.*

Application:

1. Freedom From Evil: Free From The World Of Vice, Injustice, And Pain, The Burdens Of This Life Will Cease.
2. We Shall Be With Jesus: The Day Will Come When We See Him Face To Face And Ever Be With Our Lord.
3. To Be Like Jesus: We Will Be Glorified And Take On His Very Likeness. We Will Have Full Knowledge. Life's Mysteries Will Become Clear, And We Will Worship, Praise And Glorify God Forever.
4. The Apostle Paul Modeled The True Servant (Minister) Of Jesus Christ; Our Focus And Goal Of This Life Is The Exaltation Of Jesus: (Not Self)