



Philippians

Having The Mind of Christ

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Lesson 4 (Philippians 1:19-30) The Mind of Christ Regarding Life and Death

Philippians 1:19-30
(New King James Version)

19. For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
20. according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.
21. For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.
22. But if *I* live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.
23. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better.
24. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you.
25. And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,
26. that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.
27. Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,
28. and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.
29. For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,
30. having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

Intro

1. Read the verses and describe Paul's attitude toward:
 - a. Life
 - b. Death
2. Why do you think Paul wrote these things to the Philippians?

Paul's Goal

1. What did Paul wish to be accomplished in his body (1:20)? Had this been accomplished in the past? How? Did he expect it to be accomplished in the future? How?

2. Advantages of life. List at least four advantages Paul seemed to see in living (vss. 21-26).
3. Advantages of dying. Who would benefit most from his dying? What would be the benefit?

Paul's Admonition for the Philippians

1. Their citizenship (conversation, conduct)
 - a. What was the political status of Philippi?
 - b. Of what spiritual government were the Philippian Christians a colony?
 - c. By what were they called into this relationship (see 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)?
 - d. What obligations did all of this carry?
2. Characteristics of Citizens of Heaven. List some characteristics implied in verse 27.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. Realities faced by citizens in a colony.
 - a. By what may citizens of a colony expect to be surrounded?
 - b. When people persecute citizens of the kingdom of Heaven, what does this reveal about them? What must these people expect in the future?
 - c. When citizens accept persecution without being terrified, what does that signify? What example did they have of this?
4. Privileges of Citizens
 - a. List the privileges from verse 29
 - i.
 - ii.
 - b. How could this be called a privilege?

Conclusion

1. Could it be said of you that "to live is Christ?" What encouragement should these last verses be to us in our surroundings today?