TOWARD A RADICAL UNITY

TRU-16 *"Paul's Dilemma"*

10/11/2026

PHIL 1:18b-26 *"Yes, and I will rejoice,* 19) *for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,* 20) *as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.*

NOT ASHAMED

Often the purpose of "a captor" is to cause the "prisoner" to renounce his "profession / beliefs" – ***Satan is expert at this.*** **Our testimony** is one of the greatest weapons we have… ***Satan wants to silence us…***
Whether it was **Jesus**; **Peter** & **John**; **Paul**, **Barnabas**, **Silas**, or **Timothy** the enemies assault had the same desire…

> ACTS 4:17 *But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this Name."*

- *Yes, and I will rejoice,* 19) *for I know that …* – **Paul's circumstances certainly could not be the source of his joy** – *for he KNEW…*

  > JAM 1:2 *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,* 3) *for you know that…*

  Through Paul's reasoning he knew about the Lord's promises and His intervening grace - Paul had confidence… THAT…
  - *through your prayers…* **Paul had FULL confidence in "Prayers"**
  - *and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ* – **"Epichoregeo"** – *a beneficial supply to enable one to continue* – **Paul knew the source of ALL that Believers are enabled to do comes from the "active indwelling ability of the Holy Spirit…**
- *this will turn out for my deliverance,*
  - 20) *as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed…* – **"Aischune"** – *To turn / hide the face so as to not see the hopelessness of the situation / appearance*
  - *but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body…* **It had been evident in the past… it will be in the future**
  - *whether by life or by death* -**This is not a lack of faith … a negative attitude … or defeatism … It is a "Firm Resolve"** – **nothing will take this away from me… there is NO fear…**
    - *A Martyr* – **"Martureo"** – *One who will tell what is true (no matter what) even to the point of death* –
      ACTS 1:8 *"You shall be my witnesses…"*
      REV 2:8 *"Be faithful unto death…"*

BETWEEN GOOD & BETTER

- *For TO me…* – **"This is MY attitude about this…**
  - *To Live is Christ…* – **My life will be a testimony of His grace, His Love… His glory…**
  - *To Die is Gain…* – **My death will be a testimony of His Divine Promise that I shall be delivered from the bondage of THIS world and live forever in His glorious presence**
  - *IF I am to live in the flesh… The statement is in question…*
  - *That means fruitful labor for me…* **My hard work will produce "fruit for the Kingdom and reward for me…**

  Yet, which shall I choose… I cannot tell … – **The "decision" is Paul's within the will of God… We WANT what He WANTS…**
- *I am hard-pressed between the two…* –
  - *My desire is to depart and be with Christ for that is far better [for me]…*
  - *But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.*

CONFIDENT TRUST

- *Convinced of this…* – *"Having attained an absolute trust"*
  - *I know that I will remain and continue with you all…*
    - *for your progress* – **To advance so as to engage or attain**
    - *and joy in the faith…* **Their faith will be rewarded with joy…**
  - 26) *so that in me* **[the testimony of your prayers]** *you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.* **Their "faith" will be sight…**

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