TOWARD A RADICAL UNITY

TRU-17 *"Which Shall I Choose"*

10/25/2026

PHIL 1:21-26 [NLT] *"For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.* 22) *But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So, I really don't know which is better.* 23) *I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me.*
24) *But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.*
25) *Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith.*
26) *And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.."*

BETWEEN GOOD & BETTER

- *For TO me…* – "This is MY decision about this…" Paul uses an emphatic clause to express that HE is recognizing these choices… *they are something about which every believer must decide*
  - *To Live is Christ…* – My life will be a testimony of His Grace, His Love… His Glory… Knowing the purpose of God for the believer's witness, Paul has determined "Christ" will be seen in his life…
    PHIL 2:13 *"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."*
    EPH 2:10 *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*
    - *By Him…* – We cannot accomplish this without His power working within us…
    - *For Him…* - It is TO his glory that we live… following His Word, and the leading of the Holy Spirit…
  - *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 *"To live…"* is in question… *"maybe I will, maybe I won't"* -
  - *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]…*

    2 COR 5:6-9 *"So, we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord,* 7) *for we walk by faith, not by sight.* 8) *Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.* 9) *So, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him."*
  - *But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.*
    - *To remain…* – "Epimeno" *–stay or remain in a given place/state*
    - *More necessary… –"By a physical, emotional, or spiritual need"*
    - *Your account… – "The channel through which [God's] work, blessing, help can flow to them"*

CONFIDENT TRUST

- *Convinced of this…* – *"Having attained an absolute trust / confidence"* - Paul considered both positions… And seeing that "remaining" will have a positive and productive effect upon the Believers…
  - *I know that I will remain and continue with you all…*
    - *for your progress* – To advance to engage and attain victory
    - *and joy in the faith…* Their faith will be rewarded with joy…
- 26) *so that in me* [as the testimony of your prayers] *you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.* When Paul arrives "in the flesh" their "faith" will become sight [visible / apparent] …

Paul's testimony of this "dilemma" is to reveal his interest in being in unity, through humility and sacrifice, with the Saints in Philippi…

- NOT doing what would a joyous reality for himself…
- But choosing what will bring joy to the Believers.

©2025 GJM *Geof W. Jackson*