

Philippians 1:19-26

A Life that Magnifies Christ

In this section, Paul gives the third thing that gives him joy. In addition to a focus on others and a heart for the gospel, Paul shows that when his life is being used to magnify Christ, there is something unique and special taking place.

> With the uncertainty of his future, what desire did Paul have above all else (vv. 19-20)? That Christ be glorified.

> Though death was a possibility that Paul knew he could soon face, what advantages did Paul see in remaining alive (vv. 21-26)? He would still be used of God (fruit from his labor – v. 22); still be able to help and encourage the Philippians (vv. 24-26)

> In what ways do you think Christ would be glorified even if Paul died? Christ would be glorified by Paul's great life; he would have a lasting legacy; it would encourage others to be bolder; etc.

Application

Paul is wrestling with which is better: to die and be with Christ or to remain alive and live for Christ. He concludes that both have benefits! As we anticipate heaven, remember:

- In both our life and our death (and all that either would entail), we should desire Christ to be honored.
- There are things on this side of heaven that we can do now that we will not be able to do after our death.

Paul recognizes that death is nothing to be afraid of, but he also recognizes that the moments that God has given him to live are filled with opportunities to make an impact for God's glory that he will never have again. When you think about the "here and now," does it generate as much excitement as anticipating being in the very presence of God? Is your joy "full" because you are living out what God is doing within you? In what specific ways can you magnify Christ with your life?