

WHICH IS BETTER, TO LIVE OR TO DIE?

PHIL. 1:20-26

Introduction:

- A. Seems like an easy question to answer.
 - 1. The true answer depends upon perspective.
 - 2. Not necessarily age and health.

- B. Depends upon what you are.
 - 1. Are you a child of God?
 - 2. Are you committed?
 - 3. Does your living make a difference?
 - 4. If true you should choose to live!
 - 5. The closer to Jesus, the more you work, the more you love, the deeper the commitment is preparation to live, not to die.

I. PAUL'S GREATEST DESIRE. V20

- A. His earnest expectation, and hope.
 - 1. "a looking away towards anything with the head bent forward."
 - 2. hope = the expected good.

- B. What is his earnest expectation and hope?
 - 1. "that in nothing I shall be ashamed."
 - 2. ashamed = "the feeling that attends the doing of a dishonorable deed."
 - 3. "that in all boldness, as always, so now also Christ may be magnified in my body, whether it be life or death."
 - 4. magnify = to make large, to enlarge, to praise.

- C. Life or death? Which will magnify Christ more?

II. PAUL'S GREAT DILEMA. V21

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- A. "If my life is to live for Christ, then dying for Christ is an advantage for me."
 - 1. If living for Christ is good for me, dying for Christ will be to my gain.

- B. If however, my being alive means fruitful service.
 - 1. Not a living of life, breathing, biological life.
 - 2. Fruitful life, doing good, accomplishing something.

- C. The alternatives.
 - 1. "yet what I shall choose I wot not."
 - 2. Fruitful life or to be with Christ.

- D. The choice.
 - 1. "For I am in a strait betwixt two."
 - a. "having a desire to depart" [break camp] "and to be with Christ, which is far better."
 - b. "you need me" -- "nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you."

III. PAUL EXPECTED TO KEEP ON LIVING AND SEE THEM AGAIN.

- A. vs 25-26 "Since I am convinced of this, I know that I shall remain and stay by you all, to promote your progress and joy in believing so that in me you may have abundant cause for exaltation and glorying in Christ Jesus, through my coming to you again."