

Philippians

(4) Worthy Conduct

Phil 1:21-27

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. NIV

Paul's dilemma, what to choose...1:21-27

What was Paul eagerly expecting and hoping in his present (imprisoned) state? 1:20

That he would have sufficient courage to exalt Christ in his body, by life or by death.

Why do you think Paul was contemplating life/death at this time? Acts 21:10-14

What is Paul's famous 'philosophy' of life and death? 1:21, 23

To me, to live, Christ and to die, gain! I live to serve Christ but being with Him is best!

How did Paul express this view in Acts 20:24? Acts 20:17-24

He wanted to finish his course, set by the Lord. That was more important than living!

How did he express this in Romans? Rom.14:7-9

If we live, we live for the Lord. If we die, we die for the Lord. Live or die, we're the Lord's

How does Paul evaluate living on in the body (even imprisoned)? Phil.1:22a

He sees it as fruit-bearing labor. That fruitful service glorified Christ. It's good!

What does he deeply struggle with? 1:22b

What to choose? Not so much that the real choice was his, but rather which to pray for!

And what is the object of his dilemma? 1:22b-24 see IICor.5:7-9

Depart to be with Christ (far better) or stay to minister to you (more necessary)!

What are some situations that are perhaps like this for us today? see Job 2:7-9

And after stating his confusion on the matter, what does he finally conclude? 1:25

Convinced to stay and minister, he seems positive that the Lord will grant that.

And what was his goal in this ministry to them? 1:25b-26

To see them progress and have joy in the faith, indeed their joy in Christ would overflow.

What is it that seems most likely to produce the kind of faith Paul had? James 1:2-4

Suffering seems to 'burn away' the cares of this world. Gets us focused on Him.

What is Paul's concluding admonition to the Philippians? 1:27

Whatever happens (to you), conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of Christ!

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