

SETTLED CONVICTIONS LEAD TO
ASSURANCE AND RESOLVE
Philippians 1:19-26

Paul *experienced* more *trials*, *sorrow*, and *suffering* than any other person in Scripture except maybe **Job**.

“Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches...If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness.”

~II Corinthians 11:23-28, 30

Yet, his *heart*, *life*, and *ministry* were *full of joy*. He had a *deep-rooted faith*...that gave him *security* in his relationship with Christ...which *deepened his calling*...which *compelled* him to *preach the Gospel*.

I. CONFIDENCE IN THE PRECEPTS OF GOD: (vs. 19-20)

For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (vs. 19)...

As a man of *convictions*, Paul shared his *confidence*...his *assurance*, that his *chains*...his *shackles* would eventually result in his *deliverance*...one way or another.

Know...Gk. *oida*, means *to know something with certainty*...*to know by revelation*. It allows a *confident anticipation*...a *deep-rooted trust* in God.

Deliverance...Gk. *soteria*, a word used in different ways in Scripture (i.e. *future vindication in a Roman court*). But it's most commonly used in reference to *salvation* or *being born again*. It refers to *spiritual deliverance*.

Even though Paul probably *expected exoneration* since Christianity wasn't *illegal* throughout the *Roman Empire* at this time...the *basis* on which his *assurance rested* was the *prayers* of the *saints* and the *help given* by the **Spirit of Jesus Christ**. Paul knew that he could count on the **Philippians' prayers**...and also on the *ministry* of the **Holy Spirit**...not the *legal system*.

Through your prayers...describes *intense intercession*.

Paul *believed in*...and *trusted in*...the *limitless sovereignty* of God. He had *perfect confidence* that God's Word would be *fulfilled* and His *purpose carried out*. He also knew that God's *sovereign plan incorporates prayer*.

“...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

~James 5:16b

The provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ...

Provision...Gk. *epichoregias*, describes a *full and sufficient supply of what is needed*...carrying the meaning of *support*...much like a *ligament* provides *support* in the physical body (**Ephesians 4:16**).

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”

~John 14:16-17

“In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

~Romans 8:26-27

According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death (**vs. 20**)...

Initially, Paul wasn't sure whether he would *experience release* or *martyrdom* for his *faith*. But he was certain of one thing though...that he wanted **Christ** to be **exalted** in his **body** either way. This was **Paul's earnest expectation** and **hope**. He also knew full well that it would take *courage* to face **death** with the *proper attitude*.

Earnest expectation...Gk. *karadokia*, is a unique word that describes an *anxious longing for something*. Like *someone stretching their neck to catch a glimpse of something that is ahead*.

Put to shame...implies *cowering, running from battle, or embarrassment*.

Paul's concern wasn't what would *happen to him*...but what his *testimony* would be for his Lord. *Release* would allow him to *continue preaching* Christ...but *martyrdom* would also *advance the cause* of Christ.

Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death...Paul would continue to be an *instrument* for *exalting the Lord* through *faithful* and *holy obedience*...whether through *life* or through *death*!

“For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.”

~Romans 14:7-9

II. CONFIDENCE IN THE PURPOSE OF GOD: (**vs. 21**)

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain (**vs. 21**)...

To live is Christ...Paul's *main purpose* in *living* was to *glorify Christ*. Christ was the *essence of his life*. If he *continued to live*, every *aspect* of his life would continue to *proclaim* Christ, which would *make his life fruitful*.

To die...describes *the act of dying*...*not the state of death*.

To die is gain...Yet, Paul knew that if he was *martyred*, Christ would be *glorified* through the *advancement of* the Gospel which would *result* from his *testimony in death*.

And Paul himself would *benefit*, because *death* would result in his *being with Christ*...he would be *ushered* into Christ's *presence* (**vs. 23**). Today we are that *testimony*. Through Paul's *faithfulness*...even after he *died* a *martyr's death*...his *witness continues*.

One thing's unique about Paul. He completely understood that *wealth, power, social standing, influence, prestige, possessions, good health, business or professional success*, and *all other such things* are *temporary* and *fleeting*. There are others who may *acknowledge* that truth...but not many *live* as if it is true.

III. CONFIDENCE IN THE PLAN OF GOD: (vs. 22-24)

Part of *spiritual maturity* is to *know* Christ *intimately* and to long *to be with Him*. But *spiritual maturity* also includes being *totally committed* to the *advancement* of the *kingdom*...and *servicing* Christ on while here on *earth*. Every believer lives in such *tension*. Paul didn't escape that *dilemma*, which he expressed so *poignantly* in these verses.

But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose (vs. 22)...

The tone shows that Paul is apparently *perplexed*.

But if I am to live on in the flesh...he knew that there would certainly be **fruit** from his **labor** in *proclaiming the Gospel*.

“...He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit...By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit...”

~John 15:5b, 8a

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

~Ephesians 2:10

I do not know which to choose...Paul knew that God would *bless his work* and *continue to use him* as He had in the past. Yet if Paul had a choice between *going on living* or *dying for Christ*, he was *at a loss* as to how to *decide*. He simply didn't know *which to choose*. Of course...the choice wasn't really up to him and he knew that...because he had a very high understanding of *God's sovereignty*.

But I am hard-pressed from both directions (vs. 23a)...

Hard-pressed...Gk. *sunecho*, literally means *to pressed together...to be backed into a corner*. It was often used of *being hemmed in from both sides...are when walking through a narrow gorge*.

Paul was *concerned*...he had a *dilemma*. He was *struggling* to know which would *bring the most glory to God*...and ultimately be to *everyone's benefit* in the long run.

Having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better (vs. 23b)...Here, he expresses his *personal desire*. He *anxiously awaited* the time that he *would be with Christ in heaven*...his *glorification*. It would also mean his *release* from the *persecutions* and *hardships* that he *continually suffered*.

To depart...Gk. *analuo*, means *to be let loosed*. It like a *boat being untied from the dock*...or a *prisoner being released*...or a *military detachment breaking camp*.

The **noun form**, Gk. *analysis*, was often used as a *synonym* for *death*. For Christians, *death* is simply breaking from their *temporary earthly camp* and moving on to their *eternal heavenly home*.

“For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

~II Corinthians 5:1

But Paul also knew that the **Philippians needed him**.

Yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake (vs. 24)...It was **more necessary** that he **remain on in the flesh...stay alive...for their sake**. Paul's *selfless attitude*...his *servant's heart*...is revealed here by his willingness to *place his friend's needs above his own desires*. As long as the Lord *had work for him to do on earth*, that's where *he wanted to be*.

IV. CONFIDENCE IN THE PROGRESS OF GOD: (vs. 25-26)

Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith (vs. 25)...

Convinced...literally means *being confidence*. Paul gains a *new confidence* that he will **remain** here on earth and be *released* from prison. By his being *released* and able to *return* to them, he knew that they would **grow...progress ...in their faith**...which would continue to *bring them great joy*...allow them to *experience great joy*.

So that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again (vs. 26)...

Proud confidence...Gk. *kauchema*, means to *exult*...or to *revel* or *glorify*. Some versions translate this with the word **joy**. It's used to describe a *different* and *deeper joy* than in **verse 25**. It's actually a different **Greek** word than is used in **verse 25**.

Abound...Gk. *perisseuo*, has the basic idea of *overflowing in great abundance...to run over as a cup or river overflows*. Here it's in the **present tense** just as it was in **verse 9**, which indicates *a continual progress*. An *overflowing love* of fellow Christians is a sure mark of *saving faith*... and *continued spiritual growth*.

They would *exult* with *deep, abounding joy* because the one who had *taught them* about Christ would be *with them again*.

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN:

- **No circumstance...no matter how severe...can steal your JOY**. (Families with special needs children). Is it tough...

yes! But there's a *joy* and *love* that goes beyond their circumstances. It's unconditional!

- Deep rooted **FAITH** brings security for the believer. That's why no Christian needs to ever fear **DEATH**.

“Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.”

~II Corinthians 5:6-9

- No matter what hardships you face...when you are settled in your **CONVICTIONS**, you will have an unwavering **ASSURANCE** and **RESOLVE** to see God glorified.