

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 13

Chapter 1, verses 20-23: Living for Jesus, Ready to Die

18 July 2022

Vs 20 PAUL'S EXPECTATION AND HOPE:

What it is (Romans 8:19-25): To leave his mortal body and be present with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8).

PAUL'S DESIRE THAT HIS FAITH DOES NOT WAVER

Romans 5:3-5, Paul didn't want to be ashamed if he were to quit on God before he dies. If you live every day with the earnest expectation of the blessed hope, you'll live a life that you'll not need to be ashamed of.

PAUL'S DESIRE THAT JESUS CHRIST BE MAGNIFIED IN HIM

Vs 15: because of Paul's chains, Christ was known.

Vs 18: because of his critics, Christ was preached.

Vs 20: because of his troubles, Christ was magnified.

Magnified: to look bigger, to be seen more clearly, to make the details more evident.

- As people observe our Christian lives, we ought to pray that the details of Christ are evident to those who are looking at us.
 - What do people see when they look at you? Any questionable behavior on our part will draw the attention of people to us and will diminish any evidence of Christ in us.

"Whether it be by life, or by death." If you're going to live, then live like a Christian. If you're going to die, die like a Christian. People ought to see a difference between you and an unsaved person.

Example: Daniel 3:12-18, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego knew that God could deliver them, but they made it known to all that would hear that they were placing their lives in the hands of God and that they were content, whether God delivered them or took them home.

- Paul's prayer is that he can stand for God like these Hebrew boys and not sell out Christ.
- We ought to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ that they will continue to stand for the Lord and not give up.

Vs 21 **"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."** You may not talk like Paul, but this is the truth.

- If you are saved, there is no **real** living apart from Jesus Christ.
 - If you are lost, there is no real life worth living, so you'll waste your life watching others live on TV.
- If you are saved, when you die, you will realize your great gain. What God has prepared in eternity for those of us who love Him is better than anything on this earth.
 - If you are lost, you will fear death rather than welcome it.

Vs 22 Paul had difficulty deciding what was better; living to continue serving others or dying and going home to be with Christ.

Vs 23 Though Paul's desire to stay and be a help to others placed him in a tight spot, he was still certain that departing to be with Christ would be far better for him personally. He was ready (2 Tim 4:6).

