

# PHILIPPIANS Lesson 14

## Chapter 1, verses 23-26: The Believer's Desire to Be With Christ

25 July 2022

**“Having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.”** (vs. 23)

Every born-again believer ought to know that the best thing that could happen to them would be to depart from their mortal body and this sin-cursed Earth and go to be with the Lord Jesus Christ.

- New Christians may anticipate the excitement of seeing heaven and New Jerusalem and the gold streets, tree of life, river of life, etc., but the real thrill will be the realization that we are in the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**“Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.”** (vs 24)

### Paul's reasons for staying:

1. That their joy might be furthered.
  - a. The prodigal son brought joy to his house upon his return (Luke 15).
  - b. The Lord Jesus will bring joy when He returns.
  - c. A family member returning from a long absence brings joy.
  - d. Paul's return to these believers would certainly bring them joy.
2. That their faith might be furthered.
  - a. Through further encouragement, prayer, bible lessons, and examples.

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### Cross-references on “departing to be with Christ:”

- Titus 2:13** “Looking for that blessed hope...Jesus Christ.” (Not looking for a place, but a person)
- Colossians 3:4** “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear.”
- 1 Thess 4:16-17** “The Lord himself shall descend...” we shall “meet the Lord in the air” and “ever be with the Lord.”
- 2 Timothy 4:8** Those who “Love his appearing” shall receive a “crown of righteousness.”
- There is a difference between loving your disappearing and loving the Lord's appearing.
  - Our hope is not about what we get when we leave; it's about who we get to be with.
- Romans 8:16-25** We are saved by hope in a Savior we've never seen (vs 24), but we are waiting for the day when we WILL see Him. Jesus Christ is the one member of the Trinity who can be seen.
- We will enjoy many benefits in the day of our adoption (vs23), including no more suffering and being manifested as the sons of God.
    - These are not the things that we are longing for. They are merely gifts from the One we are truly longing for, Jesus Christ our Savior.
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