

# PHILIPPIANS Lesson 15

## Chapter 1, verse 23: It is Far Better to Depart and Be with Christ

1 Aug 2022

*“For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.”*

Php 1:23

**Rom 8:23** Believers are said to “**groan within ourselves.**” This is not physical suffering. This is the internal suffering of the soul.

- Something inside the believer groans when exposed to the sinful practices that are in this world.
  - It is difficult to find a place where everyone is holy, decent, and loves the Lord.
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**2 Cor 4:16-18** Believers are made up of an “**outward man**” and an “**inward man.**” The outward man is degrading on a daily basis. The inward man is “**renewed day by day.**” (vs 16).

Our daily afflictions faced in this lifetime are “**but for a moment**” when compared to eternity. Whatever hurtful things believers might face in their life are “**temporal.**”

- We can endure any kind of suffering if we keep our focus on the Lord’s sure return.
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**2 Cor 5:1-8** Our physical body is a temporary dwelling place for our soul. God has a permanent dwelling place for us, eternal in the heavens (vs 1).

- The tabernacle (temporary) and the temple (permanent) were pictures of us moving out of a temporary dwelling and into a far better permanent dwelling (vs 2-4).
  - We are “**confident**” that once we are absent from this body, we will be present with the Lord. In fact, we are “**willing rather**” (vs 5-8). Death is preferable.
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**Col 3:1-3** Believers are looking forward to the day when our faith will turn to visible reality when Christ shall appear, and we shall appear with Him in glory.

- The dwelling place of Jesus Christ has been reckoned to us. Many things have been accounted to us in glory, though we don’t presently experience the full reality of our promised blessings. But when we depart to be with Christ, we’ll experience all His blessings.
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**Rev 21:1-5** The important thing about living in the New Jerusalem is that God is dwelling with us (vs 3).

- At that time, our groaning over the world condition will be no more (vs 4).
  - Our physical suffering will be over (vs 4).
  - We desire to be with Christ, for it is FAR better!
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