

Philippians 1:25-27

#9: Convinced of God's Plan

HHBC



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F.W. Grant's Simple Outline of Philippians:



- I. Christ the Governing Principal of the Christian life (ch 1) [vs 20,21]**
- II. Christ in His Self-humiliation as the pattern for us (ch 2) [vs 5-8]**
- III. Christ: in glory- the Object before before the soul, the goal and prize of the race (ch 3) [v 7-11]**
- IV. Christ: as known by experience in His competence for all the circumstances of the way. (ch 4) [vs 10-12, 13]**

Paul's Choice of 2 Options from vs. 21-24: Which to Choose?

LIVE ON IN THE FLESH:

*Meaning continued
fruit / labor on
Philippian's behalf*



Depart: pull up his
tent stakes and go
to be with Christ:
"very much better"



Review of Last Weeks vs. 21-24- adapted from F.W. Grant:

- I. To reach the end, we must begin aright. Christ as the governing principle is the starting point in the Christian race, and the the necessary condition of **the final result**: "***I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me***"
- II. "(Paul) looked around him and realized the condition of men and the labor for Christ Himself in their behalf"
- III. The labor for Christ Himself on their behalf: Paul was uniquely gifted and chosen by Christ Himself to represent His Person before all of them [Philippi, Thessaloniki, Ephesus, Corinth, Galatia etc.]: **Paul was it** as far as the gospel of the mystery of the Church age- *e.g. the indwelling Christ in you... Gentiles and Jews united together in one body in Christ.... heavenly positional truths....*
- IV. Two Motives: two ways which Paul could go . . . Personally, in his heart of hearts he'd like to depart and be face to face with the Lord / ON THE OTHER HAND: He was drawn in his love for his Philippian saints, and he had a **Duty** to shepherd them further.
- V. "the simple heart for Christ which carried him through all perplexities, could decide that therefore, he would remain, that their progress and joy might be ministered to"



Review of Last Weeks vs. 21-24- adapted from F.W. Grant:

- VI. **“It was not Rome**, the head of the whole world: it could not by Imperial decree decide the fate of this poor prisoner . . . (Paul) looked around him and realized the condition of men and the labor for Christ Himself in their behalf”
- VII. (the decision) **will lie only in Christ**, the Lord of all, and thus Paul can prophesy not merely with regard to the fact that he will continue to live, but even a hopeful return to the Philippians once more that "your glorying may abound in Christ Jesus through me, by my presence with you again”
- VIII. "A soul for whom Christ decides absolutely the path, and such confidence, clear-sighted as he assures us it was, could not possibly be disappointed"

ADAPTED FROM: NUMERICAL BIBLE: ACTS TO CORINTHIANS', F.W. GRANT; NEPTUNE, NJ: LOIZEAUX BROS.

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 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. 23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; 24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;





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

‘Convinced of this’:

- a. Convinced: **peithō** – or confidence in ‘I have trust in the fact that I will remain for your progress and joy in the faith’
- b. Paul’s continuing on in the flesh means assuring their spiritual solidification and grounding
- c. Paul’s ‘convinced’ is PERF. ACT. Participle; a settled confidence not needing to be repeated; an abiding confidence

‘I know that I will remain and continue with you all’

1. Know: **eidō** - ‘to see; perceive; to have knowledge of’ If absolutely, then it’s divine knowledge
2. To know absolutely and finally (Wuest)
3. Remember what F.W. Grant stated: *(the decision to depart or remain) lies only in Christ, the Lord of all, and thus **Paul can prophesy** not merely with regard to the fact that he will continue to live, but perhaps a hopeful return to see the Philippians.*
4. **Can we conclude?**: based on the word *eidō*, and Grant’s conclusion above that Paul had direct word from God Himself that he was staying on the job for several more years?
5. A prophetic word from God saying this wasn’t the end (the next prison stint was the end) He had 6 or 7 years left in his life.



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

‘for all your progress and joy in the faith’:

- i. One overarching tone of Philippians is Paul’s **Expression of Deep Joy**: for the close fellowship, expression of concern and financial sharing of the philippian believers.
- ii. “joy” - is used 7 times
- iii. “rejoice” - is used 8 times in the epistle
- iv. Similar theme to 2 Corinthians chap. 1: *Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God (v. 21) and Not that we lord it over your faith, but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm. (v. 24)*



26. so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

‘your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.’

- a. This was a problematic verse for me to grasp
- b. But the problem isn't the verse- it was simply the **New Amer. Standard rendering!**
- c. The confusion I had is cleared up by using other versions:
- d. KJV: *That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.*
- e. ESV: *‘so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.*
- f. Or the Wuest: *‘In order that your rejoicing may abound in Christ Jesus through me by reason of my personal presence with you again.*
- g. Ahh! It's simply saying you will glory even more with joy in Christ Jesus, if He sends me back to you in my physical presence- **Parousia**
- h. Constable: "Proud confidence" (NASB, Gr. kauchema) means ground for joy.
- i. Hawthorne: by linking 'proud confidence' and **parousia**, it is basically Paul saying, 'I expect to receive a king's welcome and reception when the Lord returns me to you, full of pomp and circumstance (which will give them much joy . . .)



27. Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

‘only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ’

- i. conduct yourselves: ***politeuomai*** - ACTIVE MIDDLE IMPERATIVE command
- ii. Q: what do you think the Greek *politeuomai* means?
- iii. Close to ‘politics’, the governance of civil life. . . .
- iv. *to behave as a citizen; to avail oneself of or recognize the laws; so from Thucydides down; in Hellenistic writings to conduct oneself as pledged to some law of life*
- v. **in a manner worthy of: *axiōs***; act in a suitable way worthy of the gospel . . .
- vi. **‘so that whether I am there in person or remain absent’ and hear of how you are doing’**:
Paul knows he’ll continue in ministry after this 1st imprisonment, but does not have surety whether he’ll get back to Philippi or not
- vii. But however it will be: He wants to know that—

The Philippians ‘are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind’

- a. ***stēkō*** is standing fast, persevering. Hawthorne: unflinching courage like that possessed by soldiers who determinedly refuse to leave their posts irrespective of how severely the battle rages



27. Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

The Philippians ‘are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind’

- b. Soldiers in a unit or battalion must have one spirit, *esprit de corps*, ‘the common spirit existing in the members of a group and inspiring enthusiasm, devotion, and strong regard for the honor of the group’ [Merriam-Webster]
- c. The spirit or *pneuma* is the third part of man, the spiritual organ of the mind, body, soul triunity
- d. Mind is *psyche* and it is comprised of the spirit and the human soul

‘striving together for the faith of the gospel;’

- I. Striving together: *syn-athleō*: to engage in a contest, contend in public games, contend for a prize—
- II. For: the confidence, the assurance, the absolute certainty of the **good news**
- III. The reality of the gospel: *Christ died, He was buried and was resurrected to newness of life for our sins as a free, unmerited gift to save us from eternal death by giving us eternal life, which is His life - zōē*