

April 17, 2016
Philippians 1:21-30

DEALING WITH LIFE'S DILEMMA'S

I. Introduction:

II. Unpacking The Passage:

A. Paul's Dilemma:

- a. To do two different things
- b. To be in two locations at one time

21] **For me to live is Christ and to die is gain** 22] If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean **fruitful labor** for me. Yet **what shall I choose? I do not know!** 23] I am **torn** between the two: I desire to **depart and be with Christ**, which is better by far; 24] but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25] Convinced of this, **I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,** 26] so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

B. The Benefits and Liabilities of Paul's Dilemma

Benefits of Departing

- To be instantly with Christ
- To be free of his chains and earth's limitations

Liabilities of Departing

- He would be absent from those who need him

Benefits of Staying:

- To help believers grow
- To enjoy their fellowship
- To help believers feel more secure

Liabilities of Staying:

- To be in chains
- Continued suffering

C. Conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of Christ.

27] “Whatever happens, **conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.**” Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel **28]** without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. **29]** For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, **30]** since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.”

Four Characteristics of conduct worthy of the gospel of Christ:

- Stand Firm
- In one spirit
- Contend together for the faith
- Be willing to suffer because of their faith in Christ

Complete this sentence: For me to live is _____

POINTS TO PONDER
Week of April 17th to 23rd
Philippians 1:21-30

Open It

1. How interested are you in the lives of famous people?
2. *How often do you watch TV shows or read articles about celebrities?

Explore It

3. What was Paul's main purpose in living? (1:21)
4. *What were Paul's convictions about living and dying? (1:22-24)
5. Why did Paul think he would remain alive? (1:24-26)
6. What did Paul want the believers to do? (1:27-30)
7. How did Paul tell the Philippians to face opposition? (1:27-30)
8. How did Paul encourage the Christians at Philippi? (1:29)

Get It

9. For what do you truly live?

10. Whom do you know who is suffering for Christ right now?

11. How is your church different from the Philippian church?

12. *What's the toughest thing you've had to experience as a Christian?

13. What are you willing to risk to have the reputation of being a fearless Christian?

14. What about your life-style do you most want to change in your desire to live for Christ?

Apply It

15. What step toward dedicating every area of your life to Christ can you take today?

16. *What can you do today to encourage someone who is suffering because of his or her faith?