

Sermon Quotes
August 31, 2008
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Philippians Series
Paul's Outlook on Life and Death

Philippians 1:21-30 ESV (21) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (22) If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. (23) **I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.** (24) But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. (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 in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. (27) Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, (28) and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. (29) For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, (30) engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

"...Although in prison I don't think an angel, if he searched the whole world, could have found a happier man than the apostle Paul, for a man's happiness consists not in the wealth he possesses. In the bare dungeons of Rome, Paul, the tent maker, had a glory about him which Nero never had in all his palaces; and there was a happiness there which Solomon in all his glory had never attained. So then, the desire of Paul to depart is for reasons far superior to the desire of the mere philosopher, or the disappointed worldling."

—Charles Spurgeon

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 ESV "We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord...and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord."

"I've been concerned for some time about a declining interest in
h PP ong Christians. Frankly, most North American Christians
h SLIDE so good right here in this world that they don't really know

what it is to long for heaven. God has blessed us with an abundance of earthly comforts—more than any prior generation in history. There is a danger that we become so comfortable in this life that we forget we are but strangers and pilgrims in this world...I often meet Christians who live as if heaven would be an unwelcome intrusion into their busy schedule—an interruption of career goals and holiday plans."

—John MacArthur

Acts 9:13-16 ESV But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. (14) And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." (15) But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. (16) For **I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.**"

2 Corinthians 11:24-28 ESV "Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. (25) Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; (26) on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; (27) in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. (28) And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches."

2 Corinthians 12:1-4 ESV "I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. (2) I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. (3) And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— (4) and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter."

"Salvation is not a detached gift of God in some gracious and miraculous way bestowed upon man. Salvation is Christ, and to experience salvation is to experience Christ. It is not the experience of something, but of someone. The Bible does not teach that Christ has salvation and dispenses it like a benevolent master giving gifts to his servants who obey him. Christ is our salvation and gives Himself to us as our salvation. He is our life; He is our strength; He is our peace; He is our joy; He is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption."

—George W. Peters