

A Reason to Live *Philippians 1:21-26*

A dilemma: Should I wish for life or death? 21-24

(21) Paul's situation is imprisonment that could end badly, 20.
To live is Christ—3:7-14 and also Col. 3:3,4, Gal. 2:20.
What is your principle for life?

(22—23) Why this dilemma? Which option should be chosen?

Paul knows God will choose his fate, but he is inwardly struggling to know which option to root for in his head and heart.

#1 *Live for Christ* --means *fruitful labor*, 4:17, Col. 1:6, Jn.15:16.

#2 *Die is gain* --means being *with Christ*, II Cor. 5:8

Departing is *very much better*; it's not even a close call! What helps make it more appealing? II Cor. 4:8-18, 11:24-28, 12:3-7



Paul feels really hard-pressed (pressured) from two opposite directions. Have you ever felt this way before?

(24) What should be the determining factor—personal desire or pastoral duty? Paul is now leaning heavily toward life. Why?
*This choice exemplifies thinking he spoke of in Phil. 1:9,10.
*This choice is exemplified by Jesus (2:4), Timothy (2:20), and Epaphroditus (26,30).

A decision: I must live for the benefit of others. 25, 26

(25) Internally weighing the options finally results in a settled conviction--same word used in 1:6 (pastoral optimism). Paul's "fruitful labor" (22) with the Philippians will bring *progress* (recall in 1:12) that would naturally help fulfill his prayer in 1:9-11 with a **joy-filled** faith (see 2:17).

(26) Paul's release would create a huge stir with the Philippians as they would *boast* / *express proud confidence* (same expression II Cor. 5:12, not just to rejoice) about God's deliverance.