**PAUL’S DESIRE TO EXALT CHRIST IN HIS BODY**

Philippians 1:20-26

Dr. Glenn A. Jent, Pastor

**INTRODUCTION**

On Paul’s 2nd missionary journey, he spent time in Philippi. It was there that he began his ministry in Europe after the Holy Spirit had prevented him from going eastward into Asia. We cannot know the reason God went to Europe first, but it seems that it was God’s plan for the gospel to move ever westward. Without doubt, God had something special reserved for Asia in these latter days. Regardless, the Philippians continued to support his ministry. Today, we continue our study and see Paul’s prayer request.

1. **PAUL’S DAILY EXPECTATION AND HOPE (v. 20)**
2. He did not want to bring **shame** upon himself.
3. He desired to have sufficient **courage**.
4. He wanted to exalt Christ in his body—whether by **life** or by **death**.

*After Paul had prayed for the Philippians, he requested prayer for himself. As you might expect of any committed Christian, he desired prayer for his continued faithfulness.*

1. **PAUL’S DESIRE TO EXALT CHRIST IN HIS DEATH (vv. 21, 23)**
2. He viewed his death as **personal** gain.
3. He desired to **depart** in order to be with Christ.
4. He perceived his death as being **far** **better** than continued living here.

*Paul had labored faithfully for Christ and genuinely desired to leave this old sinful world behind and go to be with the Lord in Heaven.*

1. **PAUL’S DESIRE TO EXALT CHRIST BY LIVING (vv. 21-22, 24)**
2. He saw his continued living here as Christ **living** in him.
3. He expected to live here and continue to have a **fruitful** labor.
4. He anticipated continuing to live here because it would **benefit** others.

*Although Paul was ready and anxious to go to be with Christ, he fully expected to be released from prison because it would allow him to continue to minister to the needs of others.*

1. **PAUL’S DESIRE TO EXALT CHRIST BY ENCOURAGING OTHERS(vv.25-26)**
2. His living would encourage their **progress** in the faith.
3. His living would add to their **joy** in the faith.
4. His living would cause their joy to **overflow** because of his presence with them.

**CONCLUSION**

Paul expressed uncertainty as to which he would choose—if he had a choice. However, he supposed that God would restore his freedom so that he could continue to minister to and bless others. That, my Friends, should be the desire of every Christian: to minister to and bless others. Are you doing so in your body?

 *“I will serve Thee because I love Thee; You have given life to me.*

*I was nothing before You found me; You have given life to me.*

*Heartaches, broken pieces, ruined lives are why You died on Calvary;*

*Your touch was what I longed for. You have given life to me.”*