

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

SERMON OUTLINE

By James M. Duncan, Pastor

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

#-5 Series: Philippians – “Christ-The Believers Joy”

Today’s Message:

“OUR HOPE AND PROSPECTS”

Philippians 1:19-26

What are your brightest prospects and mine? What are our future expectations? I suppose we must first ask ourselves what we expect out of life. Paul lays bare in this, his own spiritual autobiography, the secrets of his soul, the things he hopes for, his prospects.

I. HIS DEPENDENCE

Here is a note of courageous certainty amidst conflict. Whatever good or evil came to this man of God, his prospects remained the same. **“For I KNOW that” - This is the security of the Scriptures!**

Paul's words, my salvation” are **“my deliverance”** in the NKJV and Paul was confident that everything would turn out for the best. **“Through your prayers”** we have a pertinent point to be pondered. This is *the supplication of the saints*.

Paul knew further that his present circumstance would result in his spiritual profit through **“the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.”** The word **“supply”** suggests the idea of a grant or provision, in the sense of giving what is necessary for assistance or help.

II. HIS DECISION - V. 20

The Apostle Paul made some personal decisions that were among life's choicest. Those were his prospects, the things for which he lived. Possibly none surpasses that which he expressed in our present passage of *V-20*.

Facing a crisis which could ultimate in his being beheaded, this servant of the Lord was determined, as he said, **“that in nothing I shall be ashamed.”** With head erect, Paul decided that in the end, when he stood before Jesus Christ, he would not be put to shame through failing as Christ's witness.

III. HIS DEDICATION - V. 20b-26

Notice, **first**, the *value* of magnifying Christ. Here the word **“magnify”** means **“to make great, to enlarge.”**

Next, Paul sets forth the *vehicle* for magnifying Christ - **“my body”**. There are two kinds of magnification. There is the *microscopic and telescopic*

Finally, Paul speaks of the *vantage* of magnifying Christ! **“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21)**. The Bible speaks of death as:

- (1) SLEEP - *John 11:11* and *1 Corinthians 15:18*
- (2) BLESSED - *Revelation 14:13*
- (3) REST - *Job 3:17* and *2 Thessalonians 1:7*
- (4) COMFORT - *Luke 16:25*
- (5) FEARLESS, - *1 Corinthians 15:55*
- (6) PRESENT with God - *Philippians 1:23*

Doesn't that sound **far better** to you too?

How did Paul look upon dying? It was **“to depart.”** This metaphor suggests the idea of losing the moorings to set sail. Oh brethren, are we ready to depart? Little wonder Paul was eager to set sail! His departure meant that he would **“be with Christ; which is far better” (1:23)**. Are you ready for the voyage, whether by the *Rapture or by death*? Now the conclusion of the matter is this: There is a vantage for others through Paul's magnifying Christ in his body *V-26*.

Paul's grad axiom of confidence informed everything.

FOR ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST

Can we say this? Do we know him? Is he in us? Have we taken up his cross?

Then we can say it from our hearts: **For—to—me—to—live—is—Christ**. And if we can say that, we can confidently embrace the five-word result:

AND TO DIE IS GAIN!

And if we can do that, we can joyously write over our souls,

HALLELUJAH!

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