

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for September 2, 2001

Dale Whitehead

"Good Results from Bad Circumstances"

Philippians 1:18-26

Paul in the midst of his unfolding crisis was torn between remaining alive so that he might continue in fruitful labor and dying so that he might go and be with Christ.

The first desire he highlights in this section of Scripture is his desire to live so that he might continue in fruitful labor (Philippians 1:22).

Hopefully you would want to live because for you to live is Christ (Philippians 1:21).

The second desire that Paul highlights in this section of Scripture is his desire to die so that he might be with Christ (Philippians 1:22).

Hopefully the prospect of death would not be difficult for you because death for you would be considered gain (Philippians 1:21).

Two options of living and dying are pressing hard upon Paul because he is not simply weighing two opposite academic possibilities but a choice between what is better for him personally and what is more necessary for the Philippians.

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Paul debates his personal preference in circumstances because he wants to serve as a model for the Philippian church (Philippians 3:17, 4:9).

Though dying was Paul's preference his choice was to live (Philippians 1:25-26).

The reason why he felt he would continue on in the flesh was not because he had some kind of special revelation but rather because of his personal conviction that the Philippians needed him (Philippians 1:25).

Certainly they should esteem Paul for his faithfulness. But all the praise for whatever they might see in Paul's life should be directed to Christ. This is why Paul adds the phrase "may abound in Jesus Christ."