

God at Work in the Life of a Christian

Sermon 7 in the Philippians Series

Philippians 1:24-27

We already dealt verses 19-23, but these verses are vital to understanding of the truths contained in v. 24-26.

I. The Way God Normally Works -- 1:24-26

A. There are certain truths he knew that helped him guide his thinking.

1. God will be glorified through him. v. 20b

(Christ will be magnified)

2. Paul was convinced that all things work together for good to those who love God.

3. Do what is right – and trust God for the results

B. Normal Reasoning led Paul to conclude he would live, be delivered and would minister to the Philippians again v. 25-26

V. 25 – Remain and Continue

The “remain” *meno* in v. 25 links with the form of “remain” in v. 24.

“Continue” is *meno* with a prefix. *para-meno*

Literally “to stand by and remain” It has the connotation of “to remain in service” or “to continue to be at someone’s disposal in service”.

APPLICATIONS: There is much we can learn from this.

1. Do not try to live life in the miraculous – live in the light of the wisdom of God has revealed in His Word.

2. Faithfulness is far more important than apparent success.

Paul reasons in verses 25-26 – that it is best for the Philippians – and most to the glory of God that he remains to visit with them again – so – he figures that is what God will do – and points his efforts toward that goal – fully willing to let God change His direction according to the will of God.

II. Conduct worthy of the Gospel -- 1:27

He is talking about behaving like a Christian -- and there should be a world of difference between the way a Christian lives his life – and the way a lost man lives his life.

The Ten Commandments defines for us what is right and what is wrong.

1. The Law condemns the lost man
2. The Law instructs the Christian.

We seek to follow the law out of love and gratitude to God and because He has made us to love what He loves and hate what He hates – and we know that He loves righteousness and hates iniquity.

III. Progressive Sanctification comes through Use of the Means of Grace

Paul’s phrase could be translated as “behave like citizens”.

Philippian citizens were honored to be Roman citizens – as a colony of Rome. Now, they are something more – they are citizens of the Heavenly Kingdom!

Far more glorious than being a citizen of Rome.

Far more glorious than being a citizen of the United States!