

Faithful in Life or Death

Sermon 6 in the Philippians Series

Philippians 1:19-24

Paul shares his heart with the Philippians and us. We see the true desires and inner conflicts that a man of God has when coming to the end of his life.

I. Paul's Confidence 1:19-21

A. Paul didn't live under the Circumstances.

Paul was confidently aware that God is in control of every circumstance.

He knew he would be delivered.

What he didn't know was HOW he would be delivered.

v. 19 -- Deliverance is the key word. *soteria*

Whether by physical deliverance from prison – or heaven.

v. 20 – He will also be delivered from “being ashamed”.

v. 21 – The conclusion – Paul cannot be the loser.

B. The Spirit of Christ v. 19

This is another name for the Holy Spirit.

Our confession echoes the Nicene Creed in Chapter 2 para 3 when it says:

“In this divine and infinite Being there are three subsistences (or persons), the Father, the Word or Son, and the Holy Spirit, *of one substance, power and eternity, each having the whole divine essence, yet the essence undivided; The Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the son is eternally begotten of the Father; The Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and the Son; all infinite, without beginning, therefore, but One God.*”

In contrast to the Trinitarian Nicene Creed we have Modalism.

“**Modalism**, also called **Sabellianism**, is the unorthodox belief that God is one person who has revealed himself in three forms or *modes* in contrast to the Trinitarian doctrine where God is one being eternally existing in three persons. According to Modalism, during the incarnation, Jesus was simply God acting in one mode or role, and the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was God acting in a different mode. Thus, God does not exist as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit at the same time. Rather, He is one person and has merely manifested himself in these three modes at various times. Modalism thus denies the basic distinctiveness and coexistence of the three persons of the Trinity.” Theopedia.com

C. Christ will be Magnified v. 20

II. Paul's Conflict 1:22-24

Paul was ready to die.

Paul was willing to live.

Paul did not know if his work was done yet or not.

If his work wasn't done – he knew he would be delivered and continue to minister.

Death is an enemy – not something that we look forward to or seek to hasten.

However, death brings us into the closer presence of Christ – which is far better.

To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

III. What Happens when a Christian Dies? 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

A. The Intermediate State (Heaven)

1. We continue to exist in Heaven - v. 1, 6-8

Ambrose commenting on verse 1 -- “This house signifies the immortal body in which, when we rise again, we shall ever be, and the form of which is already made clear in the body of the Lord in Heaven.”

2. The Intermediate State is not our Final Existence - v. 2-5

Augustine – “We are burdened with this corruptible body, but knowing that the cause of this burdensomeness is not the nature and substance of the body, but its corruption, we do not desire to be deprived of the body, but to be clothed with its immortality.”

B. Our final reality – the Eternal State

C. What happens to the lost when they Die? -- Luke 16:19-31