

## In Between

*For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.*

*Philippians 1:23,24*

Everyday life presents us with concurrent opportunities that force us to make difficult decisions. Those decisions can have impactful consequences, such as being offered several desirable job opportunities at the same time; or they can be something more trivial like being offered free tickets to a ballgame that is scheduled on the same day you were planning to go to the amusement park. There are also innumerable times when our plans are interrupted by unforeseen situations that arise demanding an immediate decision.

In today's text, the Apostle Paul presents a situation with which we can all somewhat identify. At the time of writing his epistle to the Philippians, Paul was facing adversity due to his imprisonment. Though his faith and contentment were strong throughout his circumstance, a part of him longed for deliverance and to be in the eternal presence of the Lord. Paul says *to live is Christ and to die is gain*, which is something we must often remind ourselves. We must never allow the attachments of this life to overshadow the significance of what we gain when we step on heaven's shore. We gain everything and lose nothing of true value when we are finally home in the presence of the Lord. To balance out that longing to be delivered from the burdens of this life, the Lord reminds us that He has purpose for us to remain in the flesh. Paul understood that his purpose was to be involved in the lives of others, and the same is true for us today. God has given each of us varying degrees of opportunity to touch the lives of others for Christ. Whether it be a protracted time of intercessory prayer or simply giving a cup of cold water in Jesus name, each and every thing we do for others in Jesus' name serves an eternal purpose.

During this difficult pandemic year, I am sure believers have often thought how wonderful it would be for our delivering Lord to return; but it is important to never forget that until He calls us home, it is needful for us to be in the flesh. Today, let us decide to do what we can for others in Jesus' name.

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