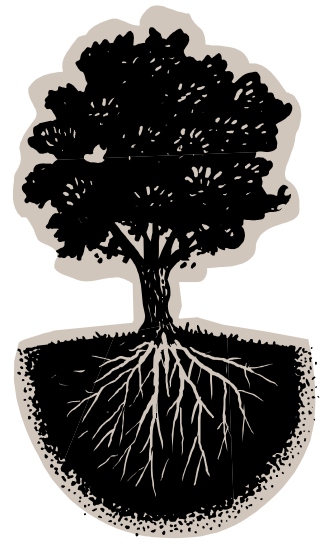


# **'Back to Basics for Believers Series' Sermons in the Epistle to the Philippians**



## **Message 4 - The Marks of a Healthy Perspective Philippians 1: 20 - 26**

As we come to the close of this incredibly helpful first chapter in Paul's letter to the Philippians, we are also concluding our 'Marks of a Healthy...' headings. We have been looking over the past weeks at these marks that ultimately reveal what it is to be a godly people living for the cause of Christ. These verses take us to a place where we can rest in the 'Marks of a Healthy Perspective', as we can see:

**1. A Healthy Perspective Will Have One Great Expectation and Hope** – Paul made it clear that his one great expectation and hope was to magnify Christ in the here and now. Paul is speaking of how that despite his circumstances he wants to bear up his body as a living sacrifice, that he will maintain a faithful witness to the Lord in a bold and uncompromising manner. It is a challenge to us to live likewise, as living sacrifices to the Lord. Paul did not want to be ashamed as he stood before his Lord, what of you? What of me?

**2. A Healthy Perspective Will Have One Great Commitment in Life and in Death** – Quite simply, for Paul to live was Christ. 'The glory of Christ ought to be the end of our life, the grace of Christ the principle of our life, and the word of Christ the rule of it. The Christians life is directed to Christ and derived from Him'. So when Paul states, to live is Christ, he is speaking of a life committed to the advance of the gospel of grace, a life committed to magnifying Christ. However, when he states, to die is gain, he is speaking of the wonderful thing it is, that when a believer dies, he will go to be with the Lord. What are we living for?

**3. A Healthy Perspective Will Have One Great Dilemma** – Paul discusses in his mind, the conflict that he has between life or death. Not that the choice is his, but is an emotive theoretical discussion that reveals to us what he was feeling. He knows he has a work to do on this earth, but to be with Christ is far better. For the believer, we should have similar feelings, although we labour on in this world, we are but pilgrims, as we journey towards a heavenly home, which will be far better!

**4. A Healthy Perspective Will Have One Great Willingness to Serve Sacrificially** – Paul was willing to serve the cause of Christ and Christ Himself until the end. He also knew that whatever the outcome, the Philippian believers could be encouraged by his stand, he is more concerned for them than for what his ultimate end will be. It is a remarkable thing that even in the face of death, Paul is still concerned for his flock, his burden is for people. It is a challenge to us to have such a heart!



**Penzance Baptist Church**  
'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs