

## **Paul's One Consuming Passion & Tough Choices Phil 1: 18b-26 (II) v18b-20**

- Paul's one consuming passion came to the fore in his trials: the glory of Christ
- This single goal & passion affected the way Paul looked at his entire life (joy)
- Paul's passion for the glory of Christ: all things under God's sovereign control
- This brought two alternate choices before Paul which were both equally good

### **II. Paul's Challenging Crossroads: Two Favorable Outcomes (1:21-24)**

- Two outcomes he faces, not choices of the lesser of two evils, good choices.

1) Paul's surprising outlook: God's sovereign control over Rome's decision (22)

- Paul highlights: deity of Christ later on, Christ equal with the Father (2:9-11)
- When Paul prayed, his requests were subject to God's will (Rom 1:10).

2) Paul's surprising difficult choice: Paul did not know what to pray for.

- For the Christian both of these choices have irresistible advantages (v.21)
- Both Paul's life & death: defined by fact that he belongs to Christ (Gal 2:20)
- Everything Paul gloried in his past life as a Pharisees he now forfeited (3:8-9)

Paul's reasoning: "**But if I live on in - flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor**" & in v 24 **Nevertheless to remain in - flesh is more needful for you.**

- Fruit for Paul, meant fruit in his labor among his friends for Christ's glory

### **III. Passion of a Pastor's Heart: He Prefers to Remain & Serve (25, 26)**

- By the end of Paul's reasoning he reaches a cautious decision (25, 26)
- Explains his decision: chooses his words carefully: "being confident of this"
- Paul shows how he came to this decision: help them to see their true passion
- Paul concluded, more glory to Christ if he remained for Philippians (24)
- Paul states "continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith" (25)
- Paul's return to the Philippians: cause for them to give glory to Christ (26)