

Phil. 1: 22-24

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SUBJECT: TO BE WITH CHRIST

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(SR)

Phil. 1: 22-24

TO BE WITH CHRIST

The meaning of the text:

1:22 Difficult to tr. - the English version obscure - but Paul's meaning is plain. Just said - "to die is gain." But only here in this world, body, can souls be won, the infant church must beg. So: "is a strait but worth it": a personal gain to be with Christ, lay the burden down, at home with Jesus; a gain to many souls, encourage the churches. It is a strait between the two choices.

1. To be with Christ - "which is far better"

ΠΟΛΥ - great, much, large

ΜΕΓΑΛΟΝ - adv. more, to a greater extent, to a higher degree

ΚΡΕΙΤΤΟΝ - comparative of ἀγαθός - better, superior, ^{more} excellent

Socrates: "It is more than to depart, to die, you to live; but which of us shall go to the better destiny is known only to the deity."

Paul: The highest joys of the ^{terrifying} believers are inferior to being with Christ. ^{Thank be to God for all the mercies of the Father,} all the ^{dropping} ^{mercies} ^{of the Father,} ^{for the streams} following in the desert, but ^{the wilderness with} all its ^{warmth} ^{is} ^{not} ^{comparable} ^{to} ^{the} ^{land} ^{flowing} ^{with} ^{milk} ^{and} ^{honey}.

of modern way of medicine: keeping the body alive. One brought back, "Yes, do I have to go through it again? die again?"

2. "To abide in the flesh - more needful for you"

Held back from heaven.

f. a mariner, long time on tedious voyage, strange, tempestuous seas, exposed to storms, perils. At last in his storm-battered ship, he gets a sight of the port of home. Can see the shining lights in the windows where loved ones waiting, watching. Then - held back - Captain says: "Turn the prow of the ship - another voyage."

The church - feels exposed to perils, needed care. Thinking of the church, poor, lost souls, his children in distress. A ragged mother, starved, her baby in her arms. A friend: "Come in - but leave the baby outside."

3. He does not choose. Left with God. Somebody else's choice.
"a strait betwixt two." Literally held by two forces.
maybe, miraculously from being chained to two soldiers.
He desired the glory of the nation he wished to be with & was willing to remain labor in

As a man would judge it - a poor choice; to live in a dangerous, chained, and equally poor business to choose to die. But the apostle regards both of them as Christian things, so choice he does not know which to select.

Observations.

1. Paul's attitude toward death.
"to depart"

II Tim. 4:6 - a loosening of the cable which holds the ship to shore does not say anything about death. Does not think it worth mentioning. No such thing to the 1st.

4. Paul's attitude
to depart
II Tim 4:6
to depart I think it
is worth mentioning.