

Philippians 1:19-30 – The Mind of Christ Regarding Life and Death

In thinking about these verses of Philippians, remember that Paul has the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16), the same mind that we are to have (2:5). These verses reveal the attitude toward life and death which the mind of Christ produced in Paul. Think about how having the mind of Christ can improve our own attitudes.

First, some questions we didn't get to in the last class:

Philippians 1:15-20

- 1) What was the effect on a minority of brethren? Explain the reasoning of this group? What motivated them? Are there ways in which we can be similarly tempted, even when doing good?

- 2) What was Paul's attitude towards this minority of brethren? Why did he react this way? Was Paul unconcerned about motives? What can we learn from Paul's reaction?

- 3) 1:19 is an allusion to Job 13:16. What is the context of that reference? What parallels are there between Paul's situation here and Job's?

- 4) What salvation does Paul mean in 1:19, salvation of his body or his soul? Through what two factors would this be accomplished?

- 5) What can we learn from this passage and from Acts 12:1-5 about the role and power of prayer?

- 6) What was Paul's hope and expectation? What can cause a person to be put to shame?

Philippians 1:21-30

7) Discuss Paul's attitude toward life and death? How are attitudes towards life and death intertwined? What is life to Paul? What implications does this have for us?

8) What advantages did Paul see in living? What advantages did Paul see in dying? Why do you think Paul wrote about this to the Philippians?

9) What was Paul awaiting when he wrote this? What outcome did he expect and why?

10) What are some characteristics of a citizen of heaven implied in verse 27? What are some privileges of citizenship from verse 29?

11) In what ways does Paul emphasize the need for unity? Why is unity so important?

12) How does the situation faced by citizens of a colony apply to us as Christians? What should our attitude be when confronted with opposition and suffering? What encouragement can we take from verses 27-30?