**Philippians 1: 21 – 26**

**Focal Truth: believers live for Christ in this world & die to be with Christ**

**Paul practiced the biblical principle of desiring two betters that make the best!**

Living for Christ in the world

Longing to be with Christ in heaven

**Observations**

1. Paul expresses his satisfaction in living or dying in Jesus Christ - 1:21
2. Paul expresses his confidence that God will produce a life of fruitful labor for the gospel in his continued life on the earth – 1:22
3. Paul believes that it is better to go to be with the Lord – 1:22
4. Paul expresses his conflicting desires for living or dying for Christ – 1:23
5. Paul expresses his longing to go be with the Lord in heaven at death – 1:23
6. Paul expresses his longing in ministry for others to continue on in life – 1:24
7. Paul believes that it is better if he remains in ministry for the gospel – 1:24
8. Paul is convinced that he is to remain alive to continue his ministry for the gospel – 1:25
9. Paul sees the benefit of his ministry – 1:25
10. Helping believers grow in Christ
11. Helping believers experience the joy of their faith in Christ
12. Paul sees the benefit of remaining in ministry so that as Christ is glorified in his life encouragement will come to the church at Philippi – 1:26

**Things to Remember**

1. Believer practice the principle of desiring two betters that make the best!
2. Col. 3:1 – Keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God
3. Col. 3:2 – set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth
4. Col. 3:3 – you have died, and your life is hidden in Christ in God
5. 2 Cor. 5:9 – therefore, we have it as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him
6. Believers have a present ministry in the world & a promised rest in Christ in heaven
7. Believers have earthly desires to glorify God through their life
8. Col. 3: 8 – 16

Rid yourselves of anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene speech from your mouth – 3:8

Do not lie to one another, since you stripped off the old self with its evil practices – 3:9

You have put on the new self, which is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created it – 3:10

Christ is all in all – 3:11

Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another, forgiving each other – 3:12 -13

Put on love – 3:14

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts – 3:15

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you – 3:16

1. Col. 3:17 – whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father
2. Believers have a heavenly desire to be with Jesus Christ in glory, united to Christ
3. 2 Cor. 5:8 – we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord
4. Believers know that God sets the days for our earthly life in which they live to glorify Christ
5. Believers know that it is better in this life, to live for Christ on earth
6. Believers know that it is better at death, to be in heaven with Christ forever

**Daily Use**

1. Examine your desires. Do you desire the two betters that make the best?
2. What kind of earthly desires do you have?
3. What kind of heavenly desires do you have?
4. Be content to say, for me to live is Christ, to die is gain!