



Pastor Jeff's Daily Devotion

Day 23

February 2, 2010

Day Twenty-Three

Philippians 1:22-30

²²If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me. ²⁷Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel ²⁸without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for Him, ³⁰since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

This is an incredible passage to me. Paul is torn over what to do. To keep on living to be a help to the Philippians or to die and be with Christ which is far better. His relationship with God has matured to the point that he is ready to be with Him. He finally decides that he will probably stay around to be an encouragement to them. Such faith is amazing.

He continues to admonish them to be in unity for the spread of the gospel. There is nothing quite as compelling to this world than when we love each other and live in unity. Suffering is definitely a possibility for those who are in Christ. The further our world moves away from God, the more conflict that it presents to those that want to live for God.

O Lord, let our relationship grow to the point that we long to be with You. Let us live in unity so that this world can see You living in us.



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