



Daily Reflections

October 29, 2016

Scripture

Philippians 1:18-26

Brothers and sisters:

As long as in every way, whether in pretense or in truth,
Christ is being proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Indeed I shall continue to rejoice,
for I know that this will result in deliverance for me
through your prayers and support from the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

My eager expectation and hope
is that I shall not be put to shame in any way,
but that with all boldness, now as always,
Christ will be magnified in my body,
whether by life or by death.

For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.

If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me.

And I do not know which I shall choose.

I am caught between the two.

I long to depart this life and be with Christ,
for that is far better.
Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit.
And this I know with confidence,
that I shall remain and continue in the service of all of you
for your progress and joy in the faith,
so that your boasting in Christ Jesus may abound on account of me
when I come to you again.

Our Scripture Reflection

Paul, writing to the Philippians from his prison cell, expresses to them a quandary. Paul has been through so much suffering because of his witness to Christ and his suffering has won over many souls. On one hand, he thinks he has done enough and wants to go to Heaven and live with Christ. But on the other hand, he knows there are still more souls to be won. Therefore, Paul feels the need to continue on. Paul will do what will please Christ. His own desires and comfort always take a back seat. What an attitude!

Food for your Journey

While we 21st-century Christians are very much involved in an "endurance race" of faith, my reading of Jesus, Paul and early Christianity is that the Christians of this era lived believing that they were running a sprint, as the fulfillment of the kingdom of God was imminently expected. The key is to be faithfully engaged while living (running) the race, whatever its length.

--Tim Roach

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please make my heart pure and holy so that I may put You and Your desires for me above all. Amen.