



THE PRIORITY OF PROGRESS

PHILIPPIANS 1:22-26 BIBLE STUDY

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CHRISTIAN PROGRESSION



- And we know that in all things God works for the **good** of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Rom 8:28, NIV)
- For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (Rom 8:29, NIV)



CONTEXT



- 18 So what? Nevertheless, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and for this I rejoice. Indeed, I will continue to rejoice. 19 For I know that [what has happened to me] will turn out for my salvation, through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in anything, but in all boldness, as always and [especially] now, Christ will be exalted in my body – whether through life or through death. 21 For, to me, to continue living is Christ, and to die is gain. (Php 1:18-21, AT)



PHILIPPIANS 1:22 CHRISTIAN WORK

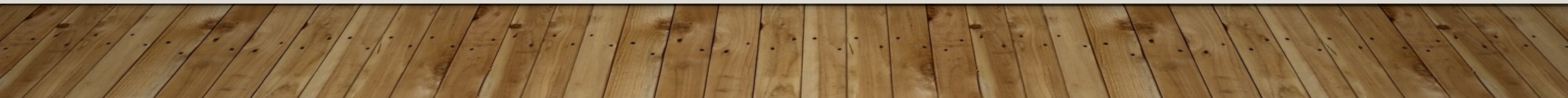


- And if I continue to live in flesh, this [will mean] fruitful work for me. Yet which will I choose? I don't know. (Php 1:22, AT)



PHILIPPIANS 1:22
IN THE FLESH

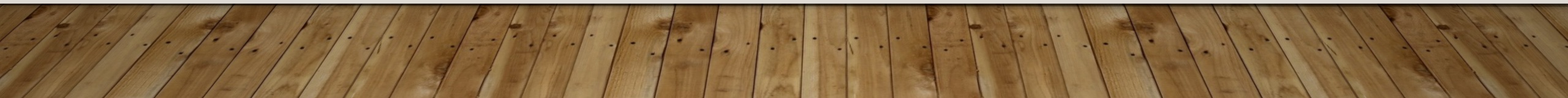


- For when we were **in the flesh**, the sinful passions operated through the law in every part of us and bore fruit for death. (Rom 7:5, HCSB)
 - For when we were in the **realm of the flesh**, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at **work** in us, so that we bore **fruit for death**. (Rom 7:5, NIV)
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PHILIPPIANS 1:22
IN THE FLESH



- For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, **in my flesh**. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. (Rom 7:18, ESV)
 - For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my **sinful nature**. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. (Rom 7:18, NIV cf. NIV footnote)
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PHILIPPIANS 1:22 CHRISTIAN WORK



- 25 But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, **co-worker** and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. 26 For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me **sorrow upon sorrow**. 28 Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. 29 So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, 30 because he almost died for the **work of Christ**. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me. (Php 2:25-30, NIV)



PHILIPPIANS 1:22 CHRISTIAN WORK



- being convinced of this very thing: that He who began a good **work** in you will perfect it until the day of Christ. (Php 1:6, AT)
- 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out** your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who **works in you**, both to will and **to work** for his good pleasure. (Php 2:12-13, ESV)



PHILIPPIANS 1:23
WIN-WIN SITUATION



- And I am hard-pressed between the two, having great desire to depart and to be with Christ, because it is much more advantageous. (Php 1:23, AT)



PHILIPPIANS 1:23
WIN-WIN SITUATION



- 12 I know what it is to be in **need**, and I know what it is to have **plenty**. I have learned the secret of being **content** in any and every situation, whether **well fed** or **hungry**, whether living in **plenty** or in **want**. 13 **I can do all this through him** who gives me strength. (Php 4:12-13, NIV)



PHILIPPIANS 1:23
WIN-WIN SITUATION



22 The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

23 the LORD has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.



PHILIPPIANS 1:23 WIN-WIN SITUATION

- 13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who **sleep in death**, so that **you do not grieve like the rest of mankind**, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have **fallen asleep in him**. (1 Th 4:13-14, NIV)



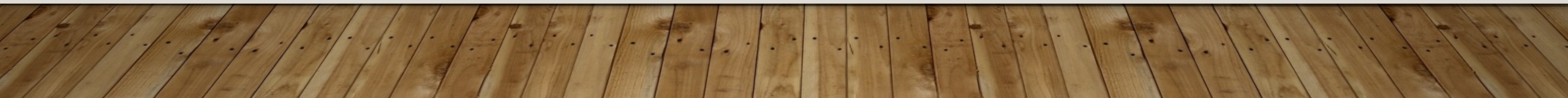
PHILIPPIANS 1:23 WIN-WIN SITUATION



- 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have **fallen asleep**. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the **dead in Christ will rise** first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore **encourage** one another with these words. (1 Th 4:15-18, NIV)



PHILIPPIANS 1:23 WIN-WIN SITUATION

- We are confident, I say, and would **prefer** to be **away from the body** and at **home with the Lord**. (2 Cor 5:8, NIV)
 - 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, **will transform our lowly bodies** so that they will be like his glorious body. (Php 3:20-21, NIV)
 - He died for us so that, **whether we are awake or asleep**, we may live **together with him**. (1 Th 5:10, NIV)
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PHILIPPIANS 1:24
SELFISH AMBITION VS.
SELFLESS MISSION



- but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. (Php 1:24, AT)
- 3 Do **nothing** out of **selfish ambition** or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 **not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.** (Php 2:3-4, NIV)
- In your relationships with one another, have the **same mindset** as Christ Jesus: (Php 2:5, NIV)



PHILIPPIANS 1:24 CHRISTIAN EXAMPLE



- Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do (Php 3:17, NIV)
- Whatever you have **learned** or **received** or **heard from me**, or **seen in me**—**put it into practice**. And the God of peace will be with you. (Php 4:9, NIV)
- Follow **my example**, as I follow the **example of Christ**. (1 Cor 11:1, NIV)



PHILIPPIANS 1:25
PRIORITY OF PROGRESS



- And of this I am convinced: I know that I will remain and continue to remain with all of you for your advancement and joy in the faith (Php 1:25, AT)
- Now, I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that my circumstances have brought about more **advancement** [*prokopē*] of the gospel. (Php 1:12, AT)



PHILIPPIANS 1:25
PRIORITY OF PROGRESS



- 9 And this is my prayer: that your **love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight**, 10 so that you may be able to **discern what is best** and may be **pure and blameless** for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the **fruit of righteousness** that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. (Php 1:9-11, NIV)



PHILIPPIANS 1:25
PRIORITY OF PROGRESS



- 7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, **train yourself to be godly**. 8 For **physical training is of some value**, but **godliness has value for all things**, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. (1 Tim 4:7-8, NIV)



PHILIPPIANS 1:25
PRIORITY OF PROGRESS



- 1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but **keep my commands in your heart**, 2 for they will **prolong your life many years** and bring you **peace and prosperity**. 3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. (Pr 3:1-4, NIV)



PHILIPPIANS 1:25
PRIORITY OF PROGRESS



- 13 **Blessed** are those who find **wisdom**, those who gain **understanding**,
14 for she is **more profitable than silver** and **yields better returns than gold**. 15 She is **more precious than rubies**; **nothing** you desire **can compare** with her. 16 **Long life** is in her right hand; in her left hand are **riches** and **honor**. 17 Her ways are **pleasant** ways, and all her paths are **peace**. 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be **blessed**. (Pr 3:13-18, NIV; cf. Pr 2:1-11)



PHILIPPIANS 1:25
PRIORITY OF PROGRESS



- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. 11 For **through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.** (Pr 9:10-11, NIV; cf. Pr 10:27)



PHILIPPIANS 1:25 PRIORITY OF PROGRESS

- **12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I **press on** toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Php 3:12-14, NIV)



PHILIPPIANS 1:25 PRIORITY OF PROGRESS



- 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Be **diligent** in these matters; give yourself **wholly** to them, so that everyone may see your **progress** [*prokopē*]. (1 Tim 4:12-15, NIV)



PHILIPPIANS 1:26
BOAST IN THE LORD



- So that your basis for boasting may abound in Christ Jesus through me on account of my coming to you again. (Php 1:26, AT)



PHILIPPIANS 1:26 BOAST IN THE LORD



- 14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will **be able to boast** on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. (Php 2:14-16, NIV; cf. 1 Th 2:19; 2 Cor 7:4, 9:2, 3)



PHILIPPIANS 1:26
BOAST IN THE LORD



- 13 For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that, 14 as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can **boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.** (2 Cor 1:13-14, NIV)



PHILIPPIANS 1:26 BOAST IN THE LORD



- 23 This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, 24 but let the one who boasts **boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me**, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD. (Jer 9:23-24, NIV)
- Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts **boast in the Lord.**” (1 Cor 1:31, NIV; cf. Gal 6:14; 2 Cor 10:17; Rom 15:17; 1 Cor 15:31)