

Series: Choices

Choosing to Live Out God's Plan

Philippians 1:18-26 (NIV)

But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 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.

1. WE CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT TO PROCLAIM CHRIST TO THE WORLD.

v. 18 "...The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice."

- The proclamation of the gospel supersedes the motive of the one proclaiming it.

"The virtue lies in the gospel, not in the gospeller; in the exposition, and not in the expounder." — nineteenth-century Scottish minister John Eadie

- God can accomplish His mission even when our motives are wrong.

Example: Jonah preaching to Nineveh.

- God can accomplish His mission best when our motives are right.

2. WE CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT TO REJOICE IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.

vv 19-21 ". . . for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Paul could face death without fear based on four realities:

- The prayers of the saints. v. 19a
- The provision of the Holy Spirit. v. 19b
- The promise of Christ. v. 20a
- The plan of God. v. 20b-21

3. WE CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT TO THINK OF OTHERS.

vv. 22-26 "If 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."

- If all we have to consider is ourselves, we would naturally choose the path that benefits us the most.
- It seems to be easier to exit this world and spend eternity with Christ.
- Choosing to consider others more than ourselves makes us more like the Jesus we proclaim.

Choosing to live out the plan of God for your life will take courage and persistence, but the reward will be that Christ is proclaimed and the people around you will be better off by your obedience.