

“Will Paul’s dilemma ever be my dilemma?”

Philippians 1:22-26

An old woodsman gives this advice about catching a porcupine: "Watch for the slapping tail as you dash in and drop a large washtub over him.

The washtub will give you something to sit on while you ponder your next move."

Part of spiritual maturity is to know Jesus Christ intimately and therefore part of spiritual greatness is to desire to be with Him.

Paul has been fighting the good fight for a long time and he believes he's coming near the end of his life and his love for Christ is greater than it has ever been.

Even though the situation was extreme and the trials were intense, Paul rejoiced in his relationship with Jesus Christ, holding fast to that which could not be taken away from him.

For Paul, neither bad circumstances, nor jealous critics, nor the threat of death itself, will rob his unspeakable joy because he found priceless contentment in intimacy with his Master!

‘Living is Christ and dying is gain’ is NOT true for the rebellious believer; for him, living is pain and dying is more painful.

Blessing by association is the overflow of divine blessing imparted to the mature believer through God’s grace pipeline.

God in His love for you, will continue to bring you to the threshold of spiritual growth as long as you live.

The reason you’re alive today is to grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by making the perception of His Word, number one priority.

Maximum opposition from the satanic forces of evil is the highest decoration the believer can receive from God!

Greater-grace status is where your enemies, whose arrogance is challenged by your humility; who judge and despise you, will do everything possible to hurt you but will fail and only cause your blessing to intensify.

Life isn’t as important to Paul as his relationship and intimacy with the Lord is.

Paul is very relaxed and very objective with no hang-ups in life and therefore when he says that he prefers to ‘break camp’, it isn’t because of suffering or any circumstances in life.

While Jesus Christ is certainly unique, He is sadly, not unique in the thinking of many believers.

At this point, Paul considers that dying grace and being absent from the body, face to face with the Lord, is infinitely better than remaining behind even to triumph in life.

There has to be a leader at a crisis period in history and Paul has now emerged.

When you have confidence through entering this stage of maturity, you also have knowledge of biblical truth which is used to correctly interpret contemporary history. Paul has correctly interpreted history and evaluated contemporary events and he realizes his relationship to it as he now moves into ultimate greater-grace status. Remember that all happiness in life for the believer, since the day he was born again, must be associated with the Word of God.

A final clause here means purpose, goal or objective and it's a reminder to each of us that as long as we live on this earth, God has a purpose for our lives.

No one ever advances spiritually apart from finding the right communicator.

The subjunctive mood is potential indicating the fact that this is only true for those who follow their pastor in the function of perception and application of truth, until the objective is achieved.

No greater responsibility has ever been entrusted to a member of the royal family of God than the communication of Bible truth, so that believers can grow in grace.

This responsibility requires the most in self-discipline, dedication and understanding the job description in the Word of God.