**Paul’s Great Dilemma**

**Philippians 1:21-24**

**Introduction:**

I. Paul was in prison at Rome (1:13, 14)

 II. Paul tells of his great dilemma (vv. 21-22; 23-24)

 A. Not to end his own life or not

 B. But, more likely should he continue his legal battle for his life or not

 C. Either choice had its advantages

 III. Let us take a closer look at the choices Paul was considering…

**Discussion:**

 **I. If He Chose to Depart**

A. Would be better for Paul personally (gain, far better)

 B. It was “better or gain: because:

 1. What he had done…

 a. He had obeyed the gospel call (Acts 26:19; Heb. 5:8, 9; 2 Thess. 1:7-9)

 b. He had kept the faith (2 Tim. 4:7, 8; Heb. 10:26-27; 29)

 2. What would he gain…

 a. To be with Christ (v. 23; 1 Thess. 4:17)

 b. To be the redeemed (2 Sam. 12:23)

 c. To be free from the struggle against sin (1 Cor. 9:27)

 d. To be free of sorrow and suffering (Rev. 21:4)

 **II. If He Chose to Remain**

A. Paul’s reason for living was Christ-centered (To live as Christ)

 1. To preach Christ (v. 18)

 2. To defend Christ (v. 17)

 3. To magnify Christ (v. 20)

 4. To strengthen others in Christ (vv. 24-26)

 B. How would you finish this sentence, “To live is…”

 1. Money? (1 Tim. 6:6-10)

 2. Pleasure? (2 Tim. 3:4)

 3. Power? (Acts 12:21-23)

 4. Attention? (**Acts 5**)

**Conclusion:**

I. If you could choose life or death, which would you choose?

 II. Why would you choose either?

 A. Choose death simply to escape problems and duties of life? Or to be with the Lord?

 B. Choose life to further your own purposes? Or, to further the cause of Christ?