

SIGNIFICANT AND SECURE

Wednesday, April 22nd 2020

Philippians 1:21-26

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 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! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.”

Reading through Philippians I often think about how strong Paul’s faith must have been, with this passage as a prime example. Sometimes, I’m motivated to follow his amazing example of confidence, but other times I’m demotivated, realizing I have a long way to go. It’s important however to ask how Paul could write such things as, “to live is Christ and to die is gain,” especially since we can sense his serious tone! What was his secret? How can I get this confident too? Where would our church be if we all had this kind of confidence?

We can see here that Paul has answers to two of life’s most important questions: the question of *significance*, and the question of *security*. In other words, why do I matter, and can I be sure of it regardless of what happens?

Obviously, Paul was very sure of Christ’s love for him. He knows exactly what death would bring; being with Jesus forever. He’s so sure of it, he claims dying is the best outcome of his time in prison! Nothing could get his spirits down, because not even death itself, let alone any of life’s difficult trials, could touch what Paul has with Jesus. If anything, they can only make their relationship stronger, because in the end Jesus is always the one in control.

Paul knows his life matters because of his relationship with Jesus. Christ, out of His love, has given Paul an important role in God’s plan for the world. Paul has a task he gets to accomplish *with* Jesus at his side. Paul is so sure of it he’s convinced he will end up walking away a free man so he can finish the work Christ specifically prepared for him (Eph. 2:10). Paul matters because Jesus says he matters, even when his work on Earth is finished and he goes to be with the Lord in Heaven forever.

You might think, “well of course Paul’s important to God... he brought the gospel to the gentiles!” But Paul understood that all the specific roles God gives to each of His children are of great significance, especially the ones we tend to think aren’t important (1 Cor. 12:22-26). They build His church in love. And He knows the rolls are important, because He planned it that way!

So are you significant? Can you be sure? Your living relationship with the Lord of the universe, Jesus Christ, proves you’re significant and secure, and He has given you an important role in His Kingdom.

Prayer: *LORD, thank You for loving me so much by giving me a relationship with You where I can be secure and significant. Thank you for being here with me right here, right now. Please give me eyes to see the important role You have given me in Your grand plan, and to move out of that with confidence to love You, Your church, and Your world. Amen.*

-Tony Grigg-

