

January 5, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Phil. 1:22-24 *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.* (NIV)

Do you sense the freedom that Paul was describing about his life of ministry? When the LORD saves us, He then commissions us. Although we receive eternal life and salvation, He also wants us to live like we are saved. This means our focus and attention shifts from us to Him and to others. Paul states that he has amazing confidence in Christ. His path for us gives us the ability to move forward, knowing that He has a plan and a purpose for every day that He gives us. Fruitful labor means that we are bearing fruit, not just hanging on the vine. The fruit of a tree shows what kind of tree it is. It is evident that an apple tree is such because it produces apples. In the same manner, it should be evident to others that we are His disciples and that He is living through us. We should be magnifying Him because He is LORD. He is our priority and our life.

This gives us an amazing confidence, knowing that whether we are here in the body or He has taken us to be with Him, we can know that we are directly in the middle of His will. Someone once said, *“To threaten a Christian with death is like threatening a hungry man with dessert--if they kill me, they’ll be doing me a favor.”* That is why Paul was able to say this in his second letter to Timothy. **2 Tim. 4:7-8** *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the LORD, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.* (NIV) While we live here, let’s live for Christ and when we die, we will be with Him for eternity!

Dear LORD, thank You for the confidence that we have when we are covered by Your blood. This frees us up to live for You unashamedly. You are our All in All. In Jesus Name, Amen