

Philippians 1:21-26 Living Between Two Worlds

In football when you have a player who is good enough to play both offense and defense. –

A)They sometimes call them a Tweener! –

B)**Or in Basketball** – if a player is a little too big and slow to play guard but a little too small to play forward – **A TWEENER!**

C)If you are a Christ follower here today – You also are a TWEENER!

D)THE REASON: YOU LIVE BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

1)this one and the one to come!

We live between two Kingdoms –

A)The Kingdom of this world – this planet this life – and everything it offers to us.

B))But also the Kingdom of Heaven – the Kingdom that is to Come!

C)Jesus wants us to enjoy this life – and live affective and impactful lives in this world

1)Always remembering that we belong to another world – another Kingdom

D)Sometimes finding the Balance can be tricky.

When we are younger- this life and this world can be such a distraction!

A)There is so much to do and so much to see! – This world at times can seem so enticing!

B)There are places to go and things to see and dreams to accomplish –

1)we can easily forget why we are here!

What is our purpose.

C)When you are young – there is this constant battle to remember eternity is a real thing

1)**and that LATER IS LONGER!**

D)Because there is so much a LIFE TO BE LIVED 1) So much life That is in front of us- we struggle to not get so caught up in the moment – here and now

But when you are older: Heaven can seem like our escape!

A)Life can be hard – full of a lot of pain – we find ourselves anxious for it to be over.

B)Older people can get frustrated because although the mind still functions good the body doesn't -

1) the mind remembers what to do – but The body refuses to respond – Frustrating

C)Seen older saints – come to a place where they sort of just check out

D)Can't do what they used to do – can't do what they want to do –

1) so they end up not wanting to do anything at all!

Whether we are talking – Young or old

A)where do we find the balance of knowing how to live in this world – make an impact

B)Remembering that we belong to another world

C)Paul in our text gives us some insight.

Recall Paul is in Prison In Rome:

A)Awaiting trial – He is older man at this point – been serving Jesus for at least 30 yrs.

B)He knows – that when he stands before Caesar it could go either way – released or Killed -

C)HE knows – he is going to be delivered – He is just not sure – how – in life or in death –

1)He is torn between which one of those he prefers

19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And being confident of this, I

know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, 26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

IN our last study – we noted that Paul’s passion was found in the statement in V. 21 – For me to live is Christ!

A) Life is what you are ALIVE TO – Paul was ALIVE TO JESUS –

B) Jesus was what he was alive to. – Jesus was who HE LIVED FOR

C) **WE ALSO NOTED Paul’s Purpose:** V.20 That whether in Life or in Death –

1) Paul wanted Christ to be magnified in his life.

D) Paul viewed his life as a platform – a stage – for **JESUS TO BE SEEN ON**

1) A stage for The Life of Jesus to be magnified upon.

E) But we see Paul’s struggle – Part of him is ready to go!

1) For me to live is Christ - **But to DIE IS GAIN!**

What did he mean by that? What do we gain in death?

A) We Gain a Better Body! – 2 Corinthians 5

B) This mortal will put on immortality!

1) No more pain – no more limitations - PERFECT – full head of hair

C) We gain a better Home! - 2 Corinthians 5 Paul likens this body to a tent

1) How many of you enjoy tent camping? Ever gone tent camping?

D) Did you enjoy it? For a day or two or three -

1) **NO ONE WANTS TO LIVE IN A TENT!**

E) Jesus said: John 14 – Father’s house many mansions – dwelling places

1) I go to prepare a place for you!

Tom Brady – Heaven – Nice size house – See’s this enormous house

Pool – Eagles – insignia embedded in the Pool - Nick Foles’ Jersey in window

Tom is flustered – Nick’s house so big – nice guy back up

God says: Tom that is not Nick’s house that is MY HOUSE

NOT REALLY MANSIONS – bodies -

Heaven is going to be so amazing – Paul – earthy words cannot describe

We gain a better inheritance: - 1 Peter 1:3,4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

A) Nothing stays new in this life! – New car – depreciates by \$1,000 dollars as soon as you drive it off the lot

B) New house – it is not long before something breaks and needs fixed or painting – nothing stays fresh and new

C) Heaven – We have an inheritance in Jesus that is incorruptible – it can’t be tainted in any way –

1) it doesn’t depreciate over time

Undefiled – doesn’t rust – It doesn’t fade away

D) In heaven - The asphalt is made of gold

1) One of the most valued things in this life is so common in heaven – walk on it

The best thing about Heaven: We have a better fellowship!

A) The conversations – Saints of old – our loved ones – **Most of all Jesus is going to be there**

B) 1 Corinthians 13:12- **Right now we see through a glass dimly – fogged glass** – we only see in part

C) But then – we are going to see clearly – Understand fully – what Jesus did for us!

1) Sweet fellowship with our savior

D) John says- When we see Him – we are going to be like him!

1) We are going to GAIN SO MUCH – SO MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN HEAVEN

Church picnic – Food line – Save your fork the best is yet to come!

A) Known for **their legendary – Desserts** - Save the fork.....

B) When one of the dear sisters – passed – her request before she died was open casket – she wanted to be placed in her coffin – fork in hand

C) All her friends that came to the viewing – got the MESSAGE

1) THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

D) Paul understood that – He is torn – Do I want to go or do I want to stay

23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, {Wrestling} having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

E) So where do we find the balance?

In our remaining time together today – I want us to note three things about Paul's perspective on life

A) That give us the answer of how to navigate living between two worlds

B) Great insight for us – If you are young – great reminder – why you are here and what your life as a Christ follower is to be about

C) And if you are older – At times feel like you want to check out at times

1) What Paul says here: Help you finish strong

#1 We are here to bear Fruit: V.22 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor;

A) Now what is fruit? that's a Christian term. You should be fruitful.

B) You go, huh, what does that mean? What does it mean as a Christian to be a fruitful Christian?

C) Jesus was the first one to introduce the idea in John 15 Picture of a VINE

1) I am the Vine and you are the branches –

D) If you abide in me – like the branch is connected to the Vine – you will bear fruit –

1) Abide in me – Abide in my Word – Result will be Fruit – in this the Father is glorified – bear much fruit

Paul gave a little more definition to the idea of Fruit in Galatians 5

A) Contrasting two ways of living – One is after the flesh – basically just living to please your fleshly appetites

B) Nothing good comes out of that – Pain, conflict and **behavior that is embarrassing to you – drunkenness – hurts others –**

1) Anger – Wrath – selfishness – Which is the way that most people live

C) But He says if you walk in the Spirit – Same idea as abiding – Desire to be connected to Christ – led by Christ

1) If you walk in the Spirit – the Fruit of the Spirit is going to be the result

D) Paul defines it in this way: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control.

E) Your life is going to be marked by those traits

Instead of things like hatred, bitterness, or even prejudice – Your life is characterized by LOVE

A) INSTEAD OF GLOOM – JOY!

B) **Instead of turmoil – there is peace!**

1) Instead of a short temper there is gentleness!

C) Instead of endless worry there is faith!

D) Instead of pride and arrogance and arrogance there is meekness!

E) Instead of being constantly driven by our passions and selfishness – there is self-control,

F) Those are the traits or fruit that the Holy Spirit is seeking to work into our lives

1) As we learn to walk in the Spirit- Abide in Christ

But then Paul gives a little more definition to the idea of fruitfulness in

A) Romans 1:13 – where he describes **soul winning** as being fruitful – leading someone else into a relationship with Jesus

B) Then in Romans 6:22 – Paul describes the fruit of holy living!

1) Living in a way that honors God and brings glory to God!

C) NO COMPROMISE - That is bearing fruit

And then in Colossians 1:10 – living your life in such a way that it is marked by good works toward others - bearing fruit

A) I love this old saying that one of the Native Americans tribes had,

“When you were born, you cried, and the world rejoiced.
Live your life in such a manner that when you die, the world cries, and you rejoice.”

B) That is what happens when you live your life – bear fruits of good works

1) People will be sad to see you go –

C) And You will rejoice to hear Jesus say – *well done good and faithful servant enter into the Joy of the Lord*

Then in Hebrews 13:15 – The fruit of our lips – giving praise to his name

A) Having an attitude of gratitude – Bears fruit - CONTAGIOUS

B) So these are all a part of what the Bible describes a being fruitful

C) Forgot one: Romans 15:28 Paul referred to **giving to the work of the gospel – as fruit**

1) So tithing to a Church and supporting missionaries is fruit bearing

So here is my Point: One of the ways that Paul lived in two worlds is he realized while he was here –

A) He was here to bear fruit.

B) His plan was to do that in every way possible – because he realized

1) **Fruit bearing opportunities – cease in heaven**

C) Paul wanted to bear as much fruit as possible while He was alive!

D) Great question to ask ourselves – Am I bearing fruit ?

1) Never too late to start!

Another way that Paul struck a balance living between two worlds is seen in V.25 – **We are here to help others progress in their faith & Calling!**

A) 25 And being confident of this, I know **that I shall remain** and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

B) I think one of the greatest examples that we see of this in Scripture other than Jesus is Jonathan – with David.

C) When David comes on the scene in 1 Samuel 17 – Jonathan is the son of King Saul – **the heir apparent to the throne.**

1) Jonathan is between **25-30 yrs old** – David is between 15-17 – just a young guy

D) But when David takes out Goliath in 1 Samuel 17 1) chapter 18 begins by telling us that the **Soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David.**

E) Instead of seeing David as a threat – to his life – Jonathan sees the hand of God upon David's life

F) Jonathan pledges the rest of his life to do everything he can to **help David become everything that God wants him to be!**

Most of us – want to be the David – we want to be great and we hope that God sends us a Jonathan – help us be great!

A) Suggest to you – there is great Joy in helping others become who God wants them to be.

B) I have had the blessing of being a Jonathan to several young guys over the years –

1) nothing gives me more Joy – watching them progress

C) Seeing them become who God wanted them to be.

D) Listen: **It doesn't matter if you are old or young** – 1) We all have a responsibility to be a Jonathan to a David – a Paul to a Timothy.

You who are younger – want to learn how to keep a balance while living in this world –

A) While remembering – Your Destiny is in the next one?

B) Resist the temptation to be preoccupied with your life and how you are going to progress – fill your dreams –

1) Realize you exist to help someone else fulfill their dreams

C) Your greatest Joy can be in helping someone else progress in who God made them to be

1) Ask the Lord to show you who your David is – you be a JONATHAN

D) You who are older – You want to resist the urge to check out – feel like this is pointless –

1) Find a David to invest in – many around here – You still have so much to offer -

E) You will be fulfilled until your dying day – if you do that!

#3 Realize you exist to help Jesus get bigger in the eyes of others

26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

Paul understood – that if he was released – and able to come to them again their rejoicing in Christ was going to EXPAND

A) MORE ABUNDANT –

B) When we live in a way that bears fruit

1) and we live in a way that helps others progress in their walks – fulfill their callings

C) JESUS GETS BIGGER – IN THE EYES OF OTHERS

1) He gets magnified – He becomes more clear to people who right now see him as blurry

D) There was a time when I was Younger as a Pastor – I wanted to Pastor a Big Church -

1) I know this isn't a small Church - but – there are bigger ones

E) My heart now – For Many years – Not Big Church – but big impact

1) Make Jesus seem bigger in the eyes of people – Some kid through a pack back –

F) Jesus would get clearer to people that right now He might seem blurry!

My focus shifted a long time ago - Not BIG CHURCH – BUT BIG PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH.

A) MY greatest Joy is seeing You – Shine – Your gifts being used

B) Jesus progressing in your life and through your life

C) I watch you guys shine – JESUS GETS BIGGER in North County – Awesome

D) Gaius – Go Go Grandmas – STOKED

1) DISCIPLESHIP – men's groups

Young people – Crazy new ideas – Cheer leader

A) Give it a try –

B) Tell our staff – Don't be afraid to fail –

C) Dream – If I can be used to help fuel someone's else's dream – make Jesus bigger in NC

D) Awesome!

Want to live affectively between two worlds

➤ **Realize you exist to BEAR FRUIT**

➤ **Realize you exist to help others PROGRESS**

➤ **Realize you exist to help Jesus get bigger in the eyes of others –**

AMEN!