

LET'S STUDY PHILIPPIANS

STUDY 4: Philippians 1:18b-26

AIM: To recognize the mutual dependence of Christians in the present age, and the glorious prospect which awaits them in this future.

1. Paul anticipates his deliverance (v. 19) as a result of (i) prayer and (ii) the help of the Spirit. Why both? What other indications are there in Paul's letters that he relies on his fellow- Christians?
2. How do you think the Philippians prayed for Paul to be helped?
Why do you think Paul is concerned here lest he should be ashamed (v. 20)?
3. 'He reserves the best of his gifts for the time of our greatest need'. How was that true for Paul? Has it been true in any special way for you?
4. What was 'more important than life' to Paul and how can it be a mark of our lives also?
5. Paul indicates that he struggled to reach the conclusion he describes in verses 23-26. How do we learn to tell the difference between our natural inclinations and the will of God?
6. What teaching does the New Testament give on what happens to the believer at death?
7. Discuss the application of these verses to 'Christians who have few gifts, or are weakened by illness, or who have grown frail in old age'. How can we strengthen our anticipation of being with Christ?

FOR STUDY 5: Read Philippians 1:27- 2:4