
A New Perspective

Philippians 1.20b-23

“Legless”

Years ago, the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsored a dinner to honor the war veterans in that area. At the dinner, a veteran soldier was introduced as one of the speakers. In making the introduction, the presiding officer referred to the fact that the man who was about to speak had lost a leg in World War II; the veteran was greeted with loud cheering as he arose to make the address. He began disavowing the introduction.

“No,” he said, “that was a mistake. I lost nothing in the war, you see, for when we went to the war we resolved to give our country our all—even if it meant our lives. We reckoned that we would not even be coming back. So you see, in returning at all, everything that we brought back was clear gain.”

Reflection

This is how we must view our spiritual journey with God. When we offered Christ lordship of our lives, we gave him everything we had, including our very lives. We died, in effect. Therefore, all that he allows us to keep is clear gain. We don't own anything in our own right, nor do we deserve any blessing. It is all grace.

Accountability and Application

- How far short do you fall from this perspective?
- Do you hold a “life owes this to me” attitude, or can you see it all as clear gain?
- Would you be willing to adopt this mindset, as the veteran had?
- How would it change any of your situations?

PRAYER Lord when I give something up, I'm either bitter or self-righteous. I confess I often demand my “rights.” Help me to release them to you. Give me a proper perspective.

Philippians 1:19-26 (NIV)

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²²If 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! ²³I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.