

Philippians 1:19-20

Vs. 19

The Greek word “salvation” used here literally means eternal salvation or deliverance. However, the nature of this word as it is used in the text and by the fact that it is grammatically directly connected to words “*earnest expectations and hope*” in verse 20 render it to mean “*deliverance*.”

Paraphrased how we might read verse 19 today would be “*For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance.*”

“*For I know*” . . . comes from the Greek word “*oida*” – to know with the grasp of mental certainty. “*I know this will turn out for my deliverance.*” Perhaps Paul remembers Job’s reply to Zophar as Job delivers that incredible statement of trust – “*Though God slay me, I will trust in Him*” and for Paul “*this will turn out for my deliverance.*” (**Job 13:15-16**)

Paul’s idea of deliverance is either being delivered in court by an innocent verdict, or being delivered through death into the presence of Christ. While Paul is convinced of his ultimate deliverance, he’s not so sure about how he’ll behave in the interim. Charles Spurgeon wrote, “*We are at our spiritual best when we find ourselves shipwrecked on the island of God’s sovereignty.*”

Paul’s Dependences

1. The first thing Paul is depending on is the prayers of the saints.

Notice **verse 19 again**, “*For I know that through your prayers . . . this will turn out for my deliverance.*” Paul was never too proud to ask for prayer. Throughout his letters you find this theme – he implores other believers for prayer:

- To the Thessalonians he writes, “*Pray for us!*” (**1 Thessalonians 5:25**)
- In **2 Thessalonians 3** he writes, “*Brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored... and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men.*” (**2 Thessalonians 3:1-2**)
- He writes to the Corinthian church – “*You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.*” (**2 Corinthians 1:11**)
- He wrote to the Roman believers, “*I appeal to you, brothers . . . strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf.*” (**Romans 15:30**)

We’re told to pray about everything, “*In everything, by prayer and supplication, let your requests be made known unto God.*” (**Philippians 4:6**) The truth is, the Lord emphasizes our praying much more than we begin to apply – and it is much more significant than we can ever begin to understand.

2. The second thing Paul is depending on is the provision of the Spirit

Vs. 19 – The NKJV uses the word “supply” your translation may say “help.” From its use in the text the better translation is “supply” because the word “*epichoregia*” describes generous, sufficient, bountiful resources, supply or provision.

Paul’s Prayer Requests

1. Pray that I will focus on what matters most – Vs. 20

It takes 2 English words “*earnest expectation*” to translate 1 Greek word “*apokaradokia*.” The difficulty in translation is that the 1 Greek word “*apokaradokia*” is a compound word which comes from 3 Greek words – the preposition “away,” the noun for “the head” and the verb, “to watch.” The Greek word means to watch something intently with the head turned away from other things.

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If we should ask ourselves ... What matters most in my life, what would be the answers? Would it be ...?

- Money?
- Leisure time?
- A hobby?
- A job?
- Prestige?
- The latest fad?
- A relationship?

The better question is what should matter most in life? Would it be ...?

- My personal relationship with God?
- My prayer life?
- Sharing the gospel message?
- Teaching my children biblical principles and ensure they hear the plan of salvation?
- As I am going making disciples?
- Am I living by faith in every aspect of my life?
- Quiet time with the Lord?
- Serving the Lord in a ministry?

What do I spend my time ... thinking about, spend my money on, spend my time doing?

2. Pray I will model courage where it counts

A note smuggled out of Romania while under Communist Regime read, “We do not pray to be better Christians but that we may be the only kind of Christian God meant us to be – faithful.”

Paul’s word here for “*boldness*” can be understood as *bold speech – forthrightness in speech* can also mean “*courage*.” Paul’s prayer – verse 20b “*that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage*” – boldness – “*now as always, Christ will be honored in my body whether by life or by death.*”

3. Pray that I will magnify the Master with all my might

It’s easy to pray:

- Oh Lord, show your glory
- Oh God, let your truth be known
- Oh God, let your grace be seen
- Oh God, let the world see your mercy
- Oh God, show mankind your love

It’s another thing to pray:

- Oh Lord show your glory in the way I live
- Oh God, let your truth be known through me
- Oh God, let your grace be seen in my actions
- Oh God, let your love been seen in all my actions

Paul says, pray that “*Christ will be magnified in my body.*” That word “magnified” is the Greek word (megaluno) and it means to make large.

Warren Wiersbe writes, “*To the average person, Jesus Christ is a misty figure, who lived centuries ago. But as they watch a believer’s life, that believer acts as a telescope – bringing Jesus Christ so much closer . . . making Him so much nearer. Or you can take a magnifying glass, or a microscope and you can make something small, much larger.*”

Application:

Here are some questions from the main points of the sermon to reflect on and answer:

1. What in my life distinctively demonstrates that I focus on what matters most?
2. What in my life reveals that I do not always focus on what matters most? (What needs to be removed)
3. What are the patterns of behavior that establish that I model courage where it counts?
4. When have I failed to model courage where it counts? Why?
5. What specifically do I achieve that exhibits that I magnify the Master with all my might?
6. What are some of my behaviors that do not magnify the Master with all my might?