

OUR DESIRES AND GOD'S WILL

Philippians 1:19-26

September 16, 2018

Paul preferred the absence of suffering and hardship. He didn't always get what he wanted.

I. Paul would not let himself be defined by prison or people who were glad he was in prison.

- Despite his circumstances, he counted on God's deliverance.
Philippians 1:16, 19-20
- Paul wasn't sure what would happen to him, but he was confident of God's approval.
- Paul didn't believe that persecution or suffering would bring him eternal salvation.

II. Paul explained his entire approach to life.

- Paul's arrest frustrated his personal dreams and desires.
Philippians 1:12-13

- Life was easier when he had plenty, but he was content if he didn't.

Philippians 4:11-12

- Paul preferred good physical health, but God gave him a "thorn in the flesh."

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

III. Paul's response was built on a profound foundation.

- Circumstances were secondary: living them to God's glory was primary.
- Death would bring reward, but life brought opportunities.

*Paul didn't enjoy suffering,
but enjoyed exalting Christ.*