HAVING A DESIRE TO DEPART AND BE WITH CHRIST - R284

Paul was a prisoner at Rome, awaiting freedom or death, he knew not which. He had, since entering the ministry, gone through an eventful career and endured much suffering. **He recounts to the Philippian church that, though he has suffered much, it has resulted in the furtherance of the gospel. Therefore he rejoices. Then he muses, wondering whether it is the will of God that he continue to live, preach, write, and suffer, and thus be a blessing to the church, or whether he has done his work and will rest in death, being at the same time an illustrious *martyr*.** And he asks himself, as it were, the question: Which would you prefer to do if it were left to your decision? and concludes that he would not know which of the *two things* to choose; but he knows of a third thing which he would be in *no doubt* about if he were at liberty to choose it. He is in a strait between *two*, having a desire for the third.

The "Emphatic Diaglott" translates the passage thus: "Christ will be magnified in my body by *life* or by *death*. Therefore for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if to live in the flesh, this to me is a fruit of labor; and what I should choose I do not exactly know: I am indeed hard pressed by the *two* things. I have an earnest desire for the RETURNING and being with Christ, since it is very much to be preferred." – Phil. 1:23.

An explanatory foot-note says, relative to the Greek *Analusia*, rendered *returning*, as above: *Analusia*, or the *returning*, being what Paul earnestly desired, could not be death or dissolution, as implied by the word *depart* in common version, because it seemed a matter of indifference to him which of the two – *life* or *death* – he should choose; but he longed for the *analusia*, which was a *third* thing, and very much to be preferred to either of the other *two* things alluded to. The word *analusia* occurs in Luke 12:36, and is there rendered *return*. "Be you like men waiting for their master when he will *return*," etc.