

Paul's world Life in Philippi – *I don't know what to choose* – 20 September 2020

Background information to support the weekly resources on **Philippians 1.21-30** in print and online at www.rootsontheweb.com



Life today

Some decisions are easy to make and other times we may really struggle to work it out. When did you last have to make a difficult decision? What helped you to decide?



Imagine

Imagine you are part of the church in Philippi and Paul comes to talk to you about a difficult decision he has to make. Paul was a very important person in the church in Philippi. He tells you he's thinking of leaving. That would have a big effect on everyone. He talks about wanting to be with Christ because of the promises he believes about the life to come. You remind him of the learning and growing you still have to do as a church and ask him to stay. Eventually, Paul gives in, because he realises that being with you and others like you is the best thing he can do to serve Christ and help build the church.

Did you know?

People living in Paul's time would have had much shorter life-expectancy than we do today, with an average adult living only to 25 or 30 years of age. People would have therefore married early and had children young. Sometimes this caused more difficulties like mothers dying in childbirth. Many people also lived with disabilities and there was very little help for people whose lives were tough. Paul was struggling with life like this while knowing that the life he had been promised with Christ was awaiting him.



Paul's letter to the Philippians

A nugget to explore with children:
Chapter 1, verses 22-25 (CEV)*

* Contemporary English Version

I don't know what to choose. I could keep on living and doing something useful. It is a hard choice to make. I want to die and be with Christ, because that would be much better. But I know that all of you still need me. That's why I am sure I will stay on to help you grow and be happy in your faith.