

Do I Really Believe God's Word?

Philippians 1:19-26

Why would anyone ask a born-again believer if he really believes God's Word? Why would any saved person question the authority and absolute truthfulness of what God has said?

His Word is forever settled in heaven (*Psalms 119:89*). Heaven and earth shall pass away, but His words will never pass away (*Matt. 24:35*). We may believe this intellectually, but do we believe this for real and demonstrate it by our actions?

Take the subject of death, for example. Paul actually desired to die. He had "a **desire** to depart, and to be with Christ" (*Phil. 1:23*). He said that death for the believer was "**far better**," and counted it not as loss but as **gain** (*Phil. 1:23,21*). Do we really believe this? Do we have a strong desire to be with Christ? Are we looking forward to it with joy unspeakable, or are we so attached to this world that we are quite comfortable remaining here longer? Do we dread our coming appointment with death? Do we fear it, even though God has removed its sting (*1 Cor. 15:55*)?

Or consider the matter of the Rapture. Is it really a "blessed hope" and happy expectation? Do I truly love His appearing? "The Rapture is a wonderful event, but hopefully it will take place a little later. I have an amazing vacation planned." "My team might be in the Superbowl in a few months, and I would hate to miss that." "I'm supposed to be married next year; I'd like that to happen first." "I'm really looking forward to a very special retirement."

Do we really believe that being with the One who loved us and gave Himself for us is "far better"? **Detachment** from the world's pleasures can only be solved by **attachment** to Christ. The closer we are to Him, the more we will want to be with Him.



~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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