

Friday with Fred – June 2, 2017



"Anticipating the Next Stop"

As I get older (birthday # 64 was yesterday) I find that I'm thinking about the next phase of my life and reflecting on the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:6.

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

It is interesting and arresting that Paul does not say, the time of my "death" is near. He could have used one or two other Greek words to express that idea. Instead he not only softens it by using a more euphemistic term, but employs a word that changes the way we think. Paul was anticipating his departure from this world to be with the Lord.

He knew the next stop was "near" or fast approaching. In fact, he contemplated this reality before and was excited about the idea. Listen to him express this in Philippians 1:23:

"But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better"

"Very much better" -- You can say that again! Paul looked forward to his departure and he knew it was near. This understanding of life was based also upon his understanding that his citizenship (and ours) is not on this earth but in heaven. (Philippians 3:20)

For Paul, it was not death that awaited him, but his departure to the delights of heaven to be in the actual presence of the Lord Jesus. I am not advocating that we live with a death wish, but that we live with the realization that our departing, whenever that will

be, is a departure to life eternal that began with becoming a Christian, continues as we live in fellowship with Christ and culminates with our resurrected life with the resurrected Jesus Christ. Very much better indeed!

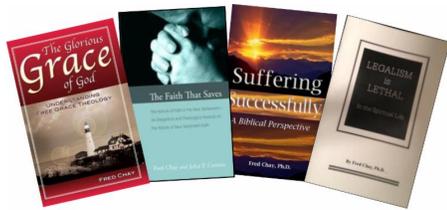
However, until that time we must live in these times with holy conduct and a heavenly outlook.

Until the departure let us make sure we *count the days and make the days count!*

Serving Him with you
Until He comes for us,
Fred

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