

John 21:18-25

18-19. "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." **This He spoke, signifying by what DEATH he would GLORIFY God.** And when He had spoken this, He said to him, **"Follow Me."**

- **I Corinthians 6:20** "For you were bought with a price; therefore, _____ God in your _____ and in your _____, which are God's."
- **Philippians 1:19-20** "For I know that this will turn out for my salvation (deliverance) through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also _____ will be _____ in my _____, whether by life or by _____."
- **II Peter 1:13-15** "Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent (body), to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, _____ as our Lord _____ Christ _____ me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my _____."

Definition: "Signifying by what DEATH he would GLORIFY God" - When Jesus says, "You will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish," He is referring to Peter being arrested and put in chains (girded, tied up), and led away to prison. History tells us that later in his life, **Peter was arrested and put to death for his faith in Jesus Christ.** Jesus told Peter that his death would GLORIFY GOD, and later Paul says in Philippians 1:19-20 that he wants his life to magnify (glorify) Christ, even if by his death. This means that those Christians who are martyred (killed) for their faith in Christ have a witness to others, even as they are dying, and God Himself receives the praise and glory.

- **Acts 21:11-13** ".....he took Paul's _____, bound (tied up) his own hands and feet, and said, 'Thus says the _____, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem _____ the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' (Verse 13) "Then Paul answered, 'What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am _____ not only to be bound [*in prison*], but also to _____ at Jerusalem for the _____ of the _____.'"
- **Acts 9:15-16** "But the _____ said to him, 'Go, for he (Paul) is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My _____ before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him (Paul) how _____ things he must _____ for My _____.'" **Definition: "Knowing that shortly I must PUT OFF my TENT"** - Peter is speaking of his death. Some translations say, "putting off this my tabernacle" or "lay aside my earthly dwelling", by which Peter means **his earthly, physical BODY**. This is Peter's way of referring to death, just as **Paul calls it "being ABSENT from the body."** Obviously, **if we can PUT OFF the body**, the true person, the soul and spirit, is LEAVING the body at death. In some translations, II Peter 1:15 reads, ".....that at any time **after my departure** you may be able to call these things to mind," so again we see that death is a DEPARTURE from the physical body. When Paul wrote his last letter before his death, to the church in Philippi, he told them that he was ready **"to DEPART and be with Christ."** Jesus Christ is not still in the grave, so Paul is NOT talking about departing and going into the grave in some kind of "soul sleep"! Jesus Christ is sitting **in heaven** at the right hand of the Father, and that is where ALL true, born-again believers in Christ will go IMMEDIATELY after we depart from our earthly bodies! When we die, we

will **immediately "DEPART and be with Christ**, for that is very much better" (Philippians 1:23).

- **II Corinthians 5:6 & 8** "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that while we are at _____ in the _____, we are absent from the Lord." "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be _____ from the _____ and to be _____ with the Lord."
- **Philippians 1:21-23** "For me, to live is Christ, and to _____ is gain. But if I am to _____ on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard pressed from both directions, having the desire to _____ and be with _____, for that is very much better."

20-22. Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, **"But Lord, what about this man?"** Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

- **Romans 14:4** "Who are you to _____ another's _____? To his own _____ he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him _____."
- **Romans 14:10** "But why do you _____ your _____? Or why do you show _____ for your _____? For we shall _____ stand before the _____ seat of _____."

Definition: "But Lord, what about this man?" - Peter wanted to know what was going to happen to his best friend, John. Not so much in a way of just being concerned, but **in a way of judging the fairness of what Jesus had planned for Peter** as opposed to what He had planned for John. This is comparison of others and a form of judging, and it is sin. How often do we do this, too - compare ourselves to others? If we compare ourselves to someone we think is on a lower level spiritually, mentally, financially, or whatever, it makes us feel better about ourselves (in a sick sort of way). **If we compare ourselves** to someone we think is on a higher level than we are, it may make us discouraged, especially if we are comparing ourselves to their qualities that we cannot change in ourselves. The Bible tells us to "examine ourselves" (II Corinthians 13:5) and only to compare ourselves with ourselves, as far as spiritual growth or God's plan for our lives are concerned. God has an individual plan and purpose for each one of us, so don't make yourself miserable by trying to compare yourself to others and what God has planned for them. God has a plan and a purpose for your life, which **He has planned even before you were born!**

- **Ephesians 2:10** "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for (for the purpose of) good works, which God has _____ beforehand that we should _____ in them."
- **II Timothy 1:9** "Who has saved us and _____ us with a _____, not according to _____, but according to His own _____ and grace which was _____ to us in Christ Jesus before time began."
- **Jeremiah 1:5** "Before I formed you in the womb, I _____ you, and _____ you came forth out of the _____, I sanctified you and I ordained you to be a prophet unto the nations."
- **Romans 9:11 & 23-24** "For the children not yet being _____, nor having done any _____ or _____, that the _____ of God according to election (His choice) might stand, not of _____ but of Him who calls (chooses)..." "And that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of _____, which He had prepared _____ for glory, even _____ whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles."

23-25. Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet **Jesus did not say to him that he would not die**, but **"If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"** This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And **there are also MANY OTHER THINGS that Jesus did**, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

- **Mark 1:1** "The _____ of the _____ of _____ Christ, the Son of God."
- **Luke 1:1-4** "Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those _____ which are most surely _____ among us, just as those who from the _____ were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered to them, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to _____ to you an orderly _____, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed."

Definition: "If I WILL that he remain till I come, WHAT is THAT to YOU?" - Basically, Jesus is telling Peter to mind his own business. Jesus is saying, "Peter, it isn't any business of yours what is going to happen to John. You just follow Me!" Jesus did NOT say that John would be alive until Jesus' second coming, but only that IF He willed it, He had the right to do so. God is the Creator, and He has the right to do whatever He wants to with His creation, and that includes us.

- **Romans 9:14-16** "What shall we say then? Is there _____ (unfairness) with God? Certainly _____! For He says to Moses, 'I will have _____ on whomever I will have _____, and I will have _____ on whomever I will have compassion.' So then it is not of him who _____, nor of him who runs, but of _____ who shows mercy."
- **Romans 9:20** "But indeed, O man, who are you to reply _____ God? Will the thing _____ say to him who _____ it, 'Why have you _____ me like this?' Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?"
- **Job 2:9-10** "Then his wife said to him, 'Do you still hold fast your integrity? _____ God and _____!' But he said to her, 'You speak as one of the _____ women speaks. shall we indeed accept _____ from God and not accept _____?' In all this Job did not sin with his lips."

Definition: "Even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" - John says, "And there are also MANY OTHER THINGS that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." The gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, did not include EVERYTHING that Jesus ever did in His life here on earth. If you were to put together all of the things Jesus did on earth that are not mentioned in the Bible, plus all the things He did as God the Son, the second person of the Trinity, who has existed from all eternity, the whole world would not be able to contain the books that could be written.

- **I John 1:1-4** "That which was from the _____, which we have heard, which we have _____ with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our _____ have handled, concerning the _____ of _____ - the life was _____, and we have _____, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - that which we have _____ and _____ we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with His Son _____ Christ. And these _____ we _____ to you that your joy may be full."

- **Romans 11:33-34** "Oh, the _____ of the _____ both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How _____ are His judgments and His _____ past finding out! For who has _____ the _____ of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him? For of him and through Him and to Him are _____ things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."