

Standing Firm Against Compromise **Philippians 1:9-11, 27-30**

In these passages Paul is pointing out our need to first “discern what is best...” when we are going about the business of Jesus. We are confronted with many choices as we go about our day. Often, the choice is about choosing the best option, neither of which is “bad.” We may have several perfectly fine options before us, but we are called to discern what is best.

We can get really clouded at that point. What does “best” mean? “*What is in it for me?*” may often be a consideration which we do not clearly recognize at first. We may not be fully aware of personal, selfish motivations which influence the things we do or say. Indeed, if there are selfish motives going on in us (and there usually are), we need to look into ourselves and “own” that part of us. Our calling is to use our discernment, and often the feedback of trusted others, to determine the best course of action for the Kingdom. Paul later points out that our decisions will have consequences for us, some of which may be painful. We may be opposed or misunderstood as we go about trying to make “best decisions” for the Kingdom. Paul reassures us that God will honor those decisions made with earnest heart and pure motives, and further, that those who oppose His righteousness will be judged.

It is immensely reassuring to know that God is in charge of the judging and that I am not! Trusting in God’s timing and recognizing that He sees the full picture allows me to simply try to do “the next right thing” and that is good enough.

Prayer: Father, create in me a new heart, and renew a right Spirit within me, Amen.