

Philippians

CHAPTER 1:27-30

Lesson 4

As you read the previous verses of Philippians chapter one, you read of Paul's dilemma: *For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you* (Philippians 1:23,24). Yet, verses 25 and 26 give us the sense that Paul felt he would be around for a while for the purpose of ministering to those who looked to him as their spiritual father. So Paul, always with a heart of equipping the saints, begins to exhort them as to how they should be walking as Christians. Paul seems to be saying, "Enough about me. Now about you..."

Read these verses as if they were written to you, because they were. This letter was written through Paul, by the Holy Spirit, for the purpose of helping you progress in your faith. May the Lord quicken in you a deep desire to walk in a manner *worthy of the gospel of Christ*.

Observation: Read Philippians 1:27-30

1. In this last section of chapter one of this letter, Paul begins to reveal his heart for the Philippians and his desire for them to live for Jesus Christ, representing Him to a lost world. Look back to Philippians 1:25. Record Paul's purpose in *remaining and continuing* with them.
 - a. Keep this purpose in mind as you study Philippians. How does knowing Paul's purpose of spiritual growth and joy encourage you to read and apply what he has to say?

2. Read through this paragraph division and record Paul's instructions to the Philippians.

3. Since the need of Paul's ministry is the only reason he desires to remain on earth, it would benefit us to take heed to what he has written. Paul wrote this letter in the midst of suffering, yet he linked *progressing in the faith* with *joy*. How have you discovered this truth in your life (the more you grow in your faith, the more joy you have)?
 - a. How have you discovered the opposite to be true?

Read Philippians 1:27

1. Paul begins this verse by addressing the *conduct* of the believer. The word *conduct*, as it is used here, not only applies to our behavior or manner of life, but it speaks of our citizenship; our behavior seen as a duty to a group of which one is a member. It speaks of our responsibility to the head of the group that one belongs to. With this definition in mind, answer the following:
 - a. What group do all believers in Jesus Christ belong to?
 - b. Who is the *Head* of that group?
 - c. How does understanding the definition of the word *conduct* speak to you as to the responsibility you have as a believer to *let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ*?
2. No one is *worthy of the gospel of Christ*. None of us deserves the salvation God has freely granted those who come to Him. A person whose conduct is *worthy of the gospel of Christ* is one who behaves in a way that reflects his belief in God's Word. What do Colossians 1:10 and 2 Corinthians 3:2 add to this?

You are writing a Gospel, a chapter each day,
By the deeds that you do and the words that you say.
Men read what you write, whether faithless or true;
Say, what is the Gospel according to you?
- Paul Gilbert

Read Philippians 1:27

1. Whether Paul was able to see the Philippians in person or simply hear about them, what was his desire?

2. What *one* word does Paul use twice to express his desire?
 - a. **Oneness** or **Unity** is a key theme in this letter. We will cover it in depth in future lessons. Unity appears to be something that does not come easily or naturally even to the believer. Paul uses strong phrases like *stand fast* and *striving together* as he exhorts the believers to be of *one spirit, with one mind*. Disunity within the body of Christ is a key strategy of the enemy. How does Matthew 12:25 remind us of the importance of not letting division take place in the church?

1.) What are some of the effects of division in the body of Christ?

2.) What are some practical things you can do to prevent division and protect unity in your church?

Read Philippians 1:28

1. *Don't be intimidated by your enemies* (Philippians 1:28a NLT). Often, we can become overwhelmed by those who oppose us. What does the Bible say about this?
 - a. Isaiah 51:7,12

 - b. Hebrews 13:6

2. According to Philippians 1:28, what two things would *not being terrified by your enemies* prove?

a. When we do not allow our enemies to intimidate us, we are giving them the message that they are the losers. According to 2 Thessalonians 1:6,7, how will God *repay* our adversaries?

1.) What will He *give* to those who have been troubled by these adversaries of the gospel?

b. Remaining steadfast against the persecution of our enemies proves our salvation. What does Matthew 5:11,12 say about this?

“Only he who can say, ‘The Lord is the strength of my life,’
can say, ‘Of whom shall I be afraid?’”
- Alexander Maclaren

Read Philippians 1:29,30

1. *For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for Him* (Philippians 1:29 NLT). In what ways do you count *trusting* (or *believing*) *in Christ* a privilege?

Challenge: The New Living Translation describes the Greek word *charizomai* as *privilege*, the New King James renders it as *granted*, and the King James Version translates it as *given*. Look up the word *given* in a Bible concordance or dictionary and record its definition.

2. What are some ways we *suffer for His sake*?

a. How is *suffering for His sake* a privilege?

b. What difference would it make if we counted *suffering for His sake* a privilege rather than a burden?

3. *Now you are taking part in that battle you once saw me fight, and which, as you hear, I am still fighting* (Philippians 1:30 JBP). Reflect on Paul's attitude during his afflictions. How is he an example to you?

Review: Read Philippians 1:27-30

1. "What we believe determines how we behave. Wrong belief ultimately means a wrong life." (Warren Wiersbe). Describe how the fruit in our lives or our behavior is related to what we believe.

2. Summarize Paul's goal for the believers in Philippi.

Personal:

a. How are your goals for others and for yourself similar to Paul's?

b. How are they different?

c. What changes need to be made in your life to align your goals with Paul's?

*But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself,
so that I may finish my race with joy,
and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus,
to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.
- Acts 20:24*