

Memory Verse

Philippians 1:29

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him, but also suffer for Him.

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

The image features a circular teal graphic centered on a background of weathered, greyish-brown wood planks. The word "PHILIPPIANS" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the center of the teal circle. A thin white horizontal line is positioned directly below the text.

PHILIPPIANS

PHILIPPIANS

Part 6

Persevering Under Persecution

Philippians 1:27-30

We have learned...

- Paul founded this assembly in Acts 16 on his second missionary journey
- There were people from different social backgrounds in this church
- They were partners with Paul in the Gospel through prayer and financial giving
- He loved them; wanted them to know how he was doing in house arrest; thank them for support and help them deal with problems

PERSECUTION

Philippians 1:27-30

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

Philippians 1:27-30

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also suffer for His sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A. 1:27a – Living Worthy

Remember the immediate context, and greater context of the letter and the rest of the Bible. Verses 27-30 are one sentence in Greek.

The Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament - Philippians
"Repeated ideas within the passage include the gospel (v. 27[2x]), suffering (vv. 28a, 29c), the Christian life as a struggle or athletic contest (vv. 27d, 30a), and the centrality of Christ in faith and hardship (vv. 27a, 29)."

A. 1:27a – Living Worthy

"Be assured," he has been saying, "that by the grace of God, abounding amid trials, it is well with me; and I have very good hope of yet again enjoying this honour, that through my means it may be well with you; - *only* fix you on this, let this be your concern, to walk as it becomes the gospel: this is the ground on which you must win your victory; this is the line on which alone you can make any effectual contribution to our common welfare, and that of all the Churches."

The Expositor's Bible - The Epistle to the Philippians.

A. 1:27a – Living Worthy

Their *lifestyle*, or their "manner of life [should] be worthy of the gospel of Christ..." The NASB reads, "Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." The phrases *let your manner of life*, or *conduct yourselves*, is a **command...**

A. 1:27a – Living Worthy

Vines Expository Dictionary gives a note about this... It means, "to be a citizen (*polites*), to live as a citizen," is used metaphorically of conduct as in accordance with the characteristics of the heavenly community; in [Act 23:1](#), "I have lived;" in [Phl 1:27](#), "let your manner of life (AV, conversation) be."“

Philippi was a free Roman colony, so they would perfectly understand what Paul was saying.

Philippians 3:20 - But our **citizenship** is in heaven...

A. 1:27a – Living Worthy

Live as though you are a free citizen of heaven on earth, because that is who we are in Christ!

Paul was probably challenging them to avoid worshipping numerous pagan gods in Philippi and Rome. They were not to be part of the pagan funeral practices, as citizens of Philippi and Rome, because they were citizens of heaven.

A. 1:27a – Living Worthy

Philippians 2:14-17 - Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

B. 1:27b – Standing and Striving

“*So that...*” or the purpose or desire he has for them, whether or not he sees them, whether he is released or not – he wanted to *hear some things* about them.

Specifically, he wanted to hear that they were standing firm, united in Christ, with one mind.

Standing firm can mean to stand fast, persevere, or persist: keeping your standing and maintaining your allegiance to freedom in context. This is also in the continuous action – **keep on standing...**

B. 1:27b – Standing and Striving

He also wanted them to stand firm in one mind, and one spirit, or be united together. This might be Hebrew parallelism, where a statement is repeated for emphasis.

In the face of opposition, oppression and persecution, Paul wanted them united in the gospel, standing firm together!

B. 1:27b – Standing and Striving

He also tells them to *strive, side by side for the faith of the gospel*, used 2 times in the NT, both in Philippians. This is *sharing together, working together, competing together or cooperating vigorously together*. Like the previous phrase, this too goes with the faith of the gospel.

They were to stand, hand in hand in the faith, proclaiming the gospel & living in a way that reflects the fact that they were free citizens of heaven.

C. 1:28 – Don't Fear Opposition

Paul tells them not to be *frightened*. This is the only place this word is used in the NT: **Don't fear anything, or in nothing be afraid of what others will say to you, about you or do to you.**

2 Timothy 3:12 - Indeed, all who desire to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus **will** be persecuted...

C. 1:28 – Don't Fear Opposition

Those who oppose the truth live under destruction. The word for *destruction* has various meanings. Here it is being excluded from the Kingdom, or doomed to eternal misery and may be a Hebrew figure of speech. Paul encourages them to look forward or have an eternal perspective...

God saved them and their stance for the gospel is a sign of destruction of those who oppose and of their salvation.

D. 1:29-30 – Conflict will Come

Verse 29 – For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him, but also suffer for His sake,

The word granted is *excharisthe* from *charizomai* – from *charis* or *grace*, *grant*, *freely give*, etc. Paul says *for the sake of Christ...* there are **2 things** God "*graced*" or "*granted*" to them.

D. 1:29-30 – Conflict will Come

What are those 2 things?

D. 1:29-30 – Conflict will Come

What are those 2 things?

1. Belief in Him

D. 1:29-30 – Conflict will Come

What are those 2 things?

1. Belief in Him
2. Suffering for Him

Both are a gift of God's grace!

D. 1:29-30 – Conflict will Come

Five years ago, Ziyad, who grew up in the Druze religion, placed his faith in Jesus Christ. Since then, he has experienced persecution in a variety of forms. Following his conversion, his family immediately kicked him out of their home. He has been beaten, imprisoned and even kidnapped for his evangelism. And he has been slandered on social media for his Christian faith. Pray for Ziyad as he continues to share the gospel with Muslims and Druze. Pray for his wisdom and discernment as he continues to grow in faith, and pray that he will find a source of income to help pay for housing, food, transportation and other expenses. **VOM**

D. 1:29-30 – Conflict will Come

First, there is a specific suffering Paul refers to here. It is suffering for standing firm in the gospel.

Second, it has to do with perspective. If we are depending on God and recognize his power and sovereign control over **ALL** things, this includes suffering for His sake. *Romans 8:18*.

Last, Paul uses himself as an example in verse 30. *Acts 16: 49AD* and he wrote them about 62AD.

Prayer

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6

GRACELIFE



CHURCH