

## 22S10 Philippians 1:27-30 Be Worthy of the Gospel

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today I want to continue our study of Philippians with Philippians 1:27-30.

Before we start, let us remember this short letter was most likely written by the Apostle Paul while he was in prison in Rome. Paul had first visited Philippi during his second missionary journey, and he has great affection for the church in Philippi. This letter is sometimes called “the Joy Epistle” because of thankful and joyful tone. But remember Paul is in prison in Rome, not very happy circumstances.

I’m reading from the New King James version (NKJV) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let’s read Philippians 1:27-30 (NKJV) *<sup>27</sup>Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, <sup>30</sup>having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.*

**Let’s pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your word from Philippians, help us see why Paul is so thankful and joyful despite his situation. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

So, before we start studying today. This section in many of our bibles has a heading. Of course, these headings are not part of the original letter Paul sent. But I do find these interesting. I like to see what the many translations say to round my understanding and prepare me for the text, Like this title “Striving and Suffering for Christ” (NKJV), or “Live as Citizens of Heaven” (NLT) or “Be Worthy of the Gospel” (KJV). Regardless of your translation title, Paul is going to tell us our conduct matters. What we do and what we say matters. Be worthy.

So, let’s break these verses down a little more. Starting with just verse 27 Philippians 1:27 (NKJV) *<sup>27</sup>Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,* Don’t miss this, Paul is saying our conduct or the way we live matters to God. Be worthy of the gospel. The word translated as conduct in the NKJV version is translated as conversation in the KJV. Neither of these are very full translations. The Greek word means more like “to live as the citizen of “. So this phrase is more like live like a citizen worthy of the gospel

of Christ. This is one time I think the NLT really captures the tone better reading, “*Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.* (Philippians 1:27 NLT). This is a great example of why reading more than one translation of the Bible can be so useful. When you read several together, sometimes it helps to complete our understand or give us a fuller understanding of the text.

Now see what Paul says next with <sup>28</sup>*and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.* (Philippians 1:28 NKJV). Again, I want to read this also from the NLT, *Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself.* (Philippians 1:28 NLT). Does it help you to hear them both together, it sure helps me? Paul is telling us to be brave. Don't be scared by those that oppose you. Those people that make fun of you for following Jesus. Your conduct and confidence are a sign to them that they are at risk of destruction by God and in the same way your behavior should be a sign that you are going to be saved by God. When your behavior is worthy of Jesus, then you should be confident. And your confidence and why you are confident will be obvious to others.

Paul continues with <sup>29</sup>*For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,* <sup>30</sup>*having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.* (Philippians 1:29-30 NKJV). Again, let me read the NLT as well, <sup>29</sup>*For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.* <sup>30</sup>*We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.* (Philippians 1:29-30 NLT)

I just like the way the NLT has phrased these passages. We are privileged to trust Jesus and likewise privileged to suffer for Jesus. Paul is again encouraging the Philippians; we are in this together. Christ suffered, Paul is having trials, remember he's in prison. So, when we face problems and opposition, we should not be surprised.

Everyone has times of suffering in life, but to suffer and struggle for Jesus or as a Christ follower is a privilege or honor. Let it sink in for a moment

Let's review.

- 1) Why does our behavior matter? Well, first, our conduct or behavior needs to be worthy of heaven. We are citizens of heaven and as such should at appropriately.
- 2) Should we fear other people? No, we should not fear people instead be confident in God. Jesus told us to no fear those who can only kill the body. Instead fear God who can destroy the body and soul. If we are confident and we don't fear those that oppose us and Jesus, then our behavior is proof of what

God can do. Our enemies see our behavior as proof of their destruction and our salvation.

- 3) Privilege for what? It is a privilege to follow Jesus, to trust Jesus. We get all the benefits of our relationship with Jesus. Peace, hope, joy, assurance but also persecution and suffering. I know we don't like this part, but Jesus suffered, Paul suffered, Peter suffering, John suffered. It is an honor to suffer for Jesus. A privilege to face troubles because of and for our Lord and King Jesus.

Let me leave you with this. No one like the idea of suffering. But if you are going to suffer anyway, then why not for someone you love. Following Jesus comes at a cost no doubt, but it also comes with a lot of benefits. We have company in our suffering, other Christians, Jesus, etc. We have hope, peace, joy, assurance, etc. because of our relationship with Jesus. We know our side wins in the end. And our king is just and loving and trustworthy. At least for me, that sounds pretty good. I love and trust my Lord, Jesus.

**Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for this letter from Paul. Help us to read and meditate on this letter so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to do what you ask and not worry about what others are doing. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

I hope you will join us for the rest of our study of Philippians. Please email me comments or feedback. Thank you for joining me today. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.