

Digging Deeper: Philippians 1:27-30

Written by Rob Reynolds (Elder at MACC)

Day 1

Read through and pray over Phil 1:27-30

Phil 1:27: Paul continues to write to the Philippians, encouraging and correcting them. Here he begins by instructing them to live a life worthy of the gospel of Christ. The beginning of Paul's statement emphasizes the importance of living in this manner. Many bible translations use the term "Only" live a life worthy. Other versions use, "Nevertheless", "Whatever happens", or "Above all". The importance placed on living a life worthy of the gospel is clearly paramount. Nevertheless, whatever happens, above all, we must only live a life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Pray today and consider the importance placed on the manner in which we live our lives.

Day 2

Phil 1:27: Paul goes on to say that whether he is able to come and see them in person or if he just hears of them, the report should be of the Philippians standing firm in the faith. Your character, your walk, your life, will be your witness. Others will speak of your actions and words. Does your home life point to Christ? Does your work ethic represent God's Word? Does your attitude reflect the love, grace and mercy you received in Jesus? Meditate on these questions and pray earnestly that your witness would point to Christ in all environments.

Day 3

Phil 1:27: In the latter portion of this verse Paul speaks of standing firm in one faith. The image that comes to mind is a well planted tree, rooted deeply in the ground, withstanding the storms and elements that may come. The ability to stand firm is dependent on being rooted and grounded in one faith. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. In order to stand firm we must be united in our faith having the same mind. Then we can contend side by side. As Paul mentioned previously "To live is Christ" (Phil 1:21). Every day we must die to self and put on the mind of Christ. It is he who unites us and allows us to stand firm. How are you putting on the mind of Christ?

Day 4

Phil 1:28: Putting on the mind of Christ in unity and contending side by side gives us strength. The roots of our faith become strongly intertwined together rooted in Christ. Paul goes on to say, the manner in which we contend in unity is without fear of opposition. We should not fear any opposition as God is with us and for us. Read Proverbs 21:30-31. Victory is the Lord's. If we are aligned with his will and purpose, we can stand firmly without fear. And by the showing of faith presented over fears, it shall be the evidence to the opposition of their destruction and your salvation. Allow the light and knowledge of knowing Jesus Christ to overcome any fears that may be hindering your witness.

Day 5

Phil 1:29-30: God has so graciously given us the ability to believe in him. Read John 1:12-13 and 1 Peter 1:3. This is God's doing and not of our own. But not only did God grant us the ability to believe in him, he has also gifted us suffering for his sake. Tony Evans writes "Suffering may appear to be a strange gift, but it's not. Suffering for the sake of Christ is purposeful, not purposeless. He allows it for our good and for his glory". Take time out today to thank God, not only for our belief in him but also in our suffering for his sake.

Day 6 - Paul has compelled us to live a life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Above all, and no matter what happens this should be our posture in life. Living worthy is our witness of faith to others. How we walk, how we talk, how we handle adversity and opposition, speaks volumes about who we are and what we are about. Coming together in the unity of faith, standing strong over our fears lets everyone know just how mighty our God is. Read John 16:33 and take peace today.