

joy / full

a study in philippians

GROUP GUIDE

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30

27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel **28** without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. **29** For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, **30** since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

A Passport, a Phalanx and a Mission // November 24, 2024

1. Read all of Philippians 1 out loud together. Then read vs 27-30 again. Then, if possible, have someone read the first sentence of vs 27 in the New Living Translation (should be available on your devices).
 - a. Lyndon talked about how the Greek phrase that NIV translates “conduct yourselves” clearly implies and includes the concept of “as citizens of heaven”. There are many ramifications of this, some of which were covered on Sunday and some which will come up later in our series. Discuss as a group how being a “citizen of Heaven” shapes how you would want to conduct yourself in your everyday, 2024 life. Be as specific as possible.
 - b. Note the phrase “Whatever Happens”. What are some of the exceptions we might tend to apply here? Explain why we might believe they are exceptions?
2. There are three phrases that Paul uses that seem to be indicators that the believers are conducting themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.
 - a. Stand firm in the One Spirit. This paints a picture of Unity.
 - i. Discuss some of the things that stand in the way of Unity among yourselves and other believers. What would be some possible steps we might need to take to reestablish Unity among us. Again, try to think specifically around your current situation.
 - ii. What role would you say the Holy Spirit plays in creating unity?
 - b. Striving together as one for the faith of the gospel. - This paints a picture of being “on Mission” and striving as “one man”.
 - i. For many believers, the mission consists largely of making sure we are saved and live good lives. Do you believe there is more to God’s mission for us than that? Why or why not?
 - ii. What would you say is the mission God has for his church?
 - iii. What would it mean practically to strive as one man to move the Kingdom of God forward? What are some practical things that might need our attention and effort? What might the challenges be in doing this?
 - iv. What role do you think prayer plays in this?
 - c. Without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. (This is a tough one, because fear is a pretty normal and regular part of our lives.)
 - i. Read 1:14. How do you think Paul’s “chains” helped instill confidence in other believers to proclaim the gospel without fear?
 - ii. Read Philippians 4:4-8. What are some practical courage builders found in these verses?
 - d. One final thing...Read 1:29. Discuss together what you think Paul means when he says “For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, **but also to suffer for him**”. What are the practical implications of this statement for your everyday lives?

As you wrap up, share one practical step you are wanting to take in response to what you have studied. Ask the rest of the group to pray for the Spirit’s help in moving you forward in this way.

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[LEADERS NOTES]

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU FOLLOW JESUS

- centralheights.ca/followjesus

STORIES

- We love hearing how God moves in people's lives. If you or anyone in your group has a story and would be willing to share, we'd love to hear it and celebrate with you. You can share your story by emailing stories@centralheights.ca

MESSAGE Video and Audio can be found at:

<https://www.centralheights.ca/currentseries>