**PAUL’S CALL FOR CHRISTIAN CONDUCT**

Philippians 1:27-30

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**INTRODUCTION**

On Paul’s 2nd missionary journey, he spent time in Philippi. It was there that he began his ministry in Europe after the Holy Spirit had prevented him from going eastward into Asia. We cannot know the reason God went to Europe first, but it seems that it was God’s plan for the gospel to move ever westward. Without doubt, God had something special reserved for Asia in these latter days. Today, we continue our study and see Paul’s call for proper Christian conduct—both then and now.

1. **STAND FIRM (v. 27).**
2. A time of opposition is not a time for **wavering** in the faith.
3. A time of opposition is not a time for **uncertainty** in one’s beliefs.

*In verse 27, Paul issues a reminder of the importance of being faithful to the Lord regardless of how dangerous the opposition may be.*

1. **BE IN ONE SPIRIT (v. 27).**
2. A time of opposition calls for contending as **one** **person**.
3. A time of opposition calls for contending for the **faith** and the **Gospel**.

*In the last part of verse 27, Paul issues a challenge to the believers to allow the Holy Spirit to empower them for bold service.*

1. **DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED (v. 28).**
2. A time of opposition demands that we be **without** **fear** in any way.
3. A time of opposition demands that we not be frightened of those who **oppose** us.

*In verse 28, Paul asserts that our boldness in the face of persecution is “a sign” that the believer will be saved and that the opposition will be destroyed.*

1. **EXPECT TO SUFFER FOR JESUS (vv. 29-30).**
2. God has granted us the **privilege** of suffering for Jesus Christ.
3. Paul indicates that those who **believe** shall also suffer.

*In verse 30, Paul says we shall undergo “the same struggle” that he had undergone.*

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, Paul spells out what kind of conduct should characterize a believer. Later in this letter (in 3:10), he writes of his personal desire to know Christ better: “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death…” I believe that Paul is reminding us that that should also be our personal desire as well. It is not a desire to suffer, but a desire to experience what Jesus experienced. Jesus says it very brazenly: “If they persecuted me; they will persecute you also” (John 15:20). Suffering is our lot in life. Therefore, let us look at it as a positive thing as Paul describes it. Let us share in the sufferings of Christ and thereby know Him more deeply.

*“Through it all, Through it all,*

*I’ve learned to trust in Jesus, I’ve learned to trust in God.*

*Through it all, Through it all,*

*I’ve learned to depend upon His Word.”*