
CHURCH IN COMMON

COMMON SUFFERING—PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30

What?

Open in prayer. Thank God for those here who you are striving together as one for the gospel (v.27). Pray that you can be open to what God is inviting you to believe and suffer for him.

Read Philippians 1:27-30. Have someone read it a second time. What words or phrases stuck out? What questions do you have? Are there any answers in the text?

Bible commentators will point to these four verses as the “thesis statement” of the book of Philippians. If that’s so, then when do you think is the core message of this letter?

What do you think Paul has in mind about how to behave as citizens of heaven (or to “conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel” v.27)?

What could you learn from Paul’s example (v.29-30)?

So what?

Why is it important for Christians’ public behavior to match up with the gospel?

Where and how have you experienced resistance to your faith? How did you feel? How did you respond?

How well prepared are you to endure suffering for Jesus? What could you do to become better prepared?

God can use the willingness of Christians to suffer for the gospel in order to convict others of their sin, idols, selfishness, or as a “sign that they will be destroyed” (v.28). How have you seen that? How have you been convicted by the actions of other Christians?

Now what?

This passage emphasizes unity and suffering. Why do you think they go hand-in-hand? And how can we strive together as one?

Close in prayer pray for any needs among the group. Spend time praying that you and the church may suffer for the right things.