

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the

# PHILIPPIANS

Lesson 3: Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted  
Philippians 1:27-30

Look for the answer to these questions:

1. According to Philippians 1:27, our “conversation” (or way of life) should be worthy of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Also in verse 27, Paul wanted to hear that the Philippians were standing together “in one \_\_\_\_\_, with one \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. In verse 28, Paul said the courage we show when we are persecuted is a sign to our enemies, “an evident token of \_\_\_\_\_.”
4. Also in verse 28, Paul said our courage is a sign to US of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In verse 29, what are the two things given to the church?

This lesson will examine the conclusion of Chapter One:

## Chapter 1: PAUL'S ACCOUNT OF HIS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE

1. Paul's prayer of thanksgiving (1-11)
2. Paul's afflictions help spread the Gospel (12-18)
3. Paul's afflictions exalt the Lord (19-26)
4. Paul's exhortation to the afflicted (27-30)



## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

Chapter 1 ends with an exhortation from Paul to other Christians who suffer for the sake of the gospel.

### **Philippians 1:27**

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:  
that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs,  
that ye stand fast in one spirit,  
with one mind  
striving together for the faith of the gospel;

## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

In this verse, your *conversation* is not just the things you talk about. It is your way of life.

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## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

To be “becoming” is to be attractive and suitable, as in “that hairstyle is *becoming* on you.”

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## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

**Proverbs 11:22** speaks of a thing that is NOT "becoming."

(When you read this verse, remember that WE are the bride of Christ!)

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### **Proverbs 11:22**

<sup>22</sup> As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair [beautiful] woman which is without discretion.

## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

In Ephesians 4:1, the same Greek word was translated “worthy.”

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that whether I come and see you, or else be absent,  
I may hear of your affairs,  
that ye stand fast in one spirit,  
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striving together for the faith of the gospel;

### Ephesians 4:1

<sup>1</sup> I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord,  
beseech you that ye walk **worthy** of the vocation  
wherewith ye are called...



## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ...”

English Standard Version

### Philippians 1:27

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:

that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

Most Christians put on their best behavior when the respected elder comes to visit. Paul wanted them to live to please Christ, not for him.

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I may hear of your affairs,  
that ye stand fast in one spirit,  
with one mind  
striving together for the faith of the gospel;

## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

The advancement of the gospel requires the united effort of committed people –

In ONE spirit, with ONE mind.

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striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

As we shall later see, this verse sets the theme of this entire epistle.

## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

Paul encourages Christian suffering from persecution to be courageous in their afflictions.

### **Philippians 1:28**

<sup>28</sup> And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

Your fearlessness in the face of your enemies is a sign to THEM of their **perdition**, or final destruction.

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#### **Perdition:**

The utter loss of the soul or of final happiness in a future state; future misery or eternal death.

The impenitent sinner is condemned to final *perdition*.  
If we reject the truth, we seal our own *perdition*.

From Webster's 1812 Dictionary

## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

It is a sign to YOU of the victory you have in Christ.

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The courage you show is  
itself a gift from God.

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### **2 Timothy 1:7**

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear;  
but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

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The courage you show is  
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### Philippians 1:28

<sup>28</sup> And in nothing terrified by your adversaries:  
which is to them an evident token of perdition,  
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**and that of God.**

“Be brave when you face your enemies. Your courage will show them that they are going to be destroyed, and it will show you that you will be saved. God will make all of this happen.”

Contemporary English Version

## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

Very few Christians have the faith to see that it is a gift from God both to BELIEVE on him and to SUFFER for his name.

### **Philippians 1:29**

<sup>29</sup> For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

Remember the testimony  
of the early apostles  
after they were arrested  
and beaten:

### **Acts 5:40-42**

- <sup>40</sup> ...and when they [the chief priests] had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.
- <sup>41</sup> And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.
- <sup>42</sup> And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

Paul knew of the believers in Philippi were also suffering for the sake of Christ.

### **Philippians 1:30**

<sup>30</sup> Having the same conflict [struggle] which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

## D. Paul's Exhortation to the Afflicted (27-30)

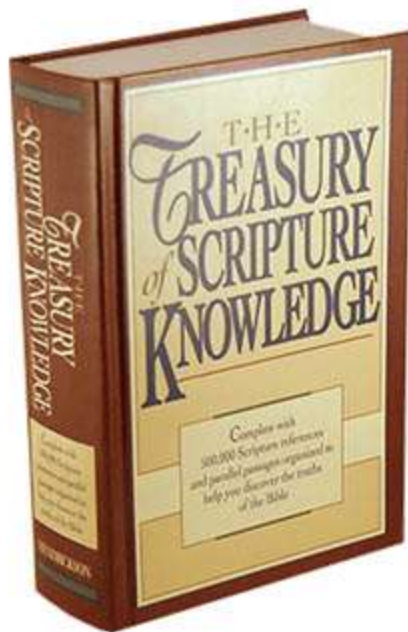
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### **Philippians 1:30**

<sup>30</sup> Having the same conflict [struggle] which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

In Chapter 3, Paul will speak of the “fellowship of his sufferings” that leads to increased understanding of Christ. But for now, this concludes Chapter One.

### Overview - Philippians 1



- 1-8 Paul testifies his thankfulness to God, and his love towards them, for the fruits of their faith, and fellowship in his sufferings;
- 9-11 daily praying to him for their increase in grace;
- 12-20 he shows what good the faith of Christ had received by his troubles at Rome;
- 21-26 and how ready he is to glorify Christ either by his life or death;
- 27 exhorting them to unity;
- 28-30 and to fortitude in persecution.



# The Structure of Philippians

Chapter 1: PAUL'S ACCOUNT OF HIS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE

UP NEXT

Chapter 2: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST

Chapter 3: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST

Chapter 4: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. According to Philippians 1:27, our “conversation” (or way of life) should be worthy of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Also in verse 27, Paul wanted to hear that the Philippians were standing together “in one \_\_\_\_\_, with one \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. In verse 28, Paul said the courage we show when we are persecuted is a sign to our enemies, “an evident token of \_\_\_\_\_.”
4. Also in verse 28, Paul said our courage is a sign to US of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In verse 29, what are the two things given to the church?

Each question is worth 20 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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