

## Philippians Bible Study - Lesson 4 - **Philippians 1:27-2:4**

October 6, 2024

### **Philippians 1:27-30**

1. **1:27** - After greeting the church in Philippi and using his experience in prison to point out the importance of sharing the gospel (1:12), Paul gives them and us his one big proposition:  
    **“let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ”**
  - a. How would you describe living in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ? What does that look like for a Christian, or for the Christian community?
  - b. Paul breaks this down into two parts: standing firm and being united.
  - c. Jesus prayed for this very thing for His apostles and all Christians in “The High Priestly Prayer” before His death (John 17, especially v. 11 & 22-23).
2. **1:28** - Solid Declaration - on *Good Works* - “For good works in believers are an indication of their salvation when they are done [for the right reasons and to the right ends] (that is, in the way that God demands them) by those who have been born again” (FC, SD IV:38).
  - a. In true CTV fashion, good works are the “fruit” of faith which flows from life in Christ.
  - b. We normally think of good works as “signs of your salvation,” but Paul says that they are also signs of destruction for non-believers. Why is that? To what end (see above)?
3. **1:29** - **“It has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should...”**
  - a. **“Believe in him”** - Solid Declaration - on *Free Will* - “Reason and the free will are capable of “living honorably to a certain extent externally,” but only the Holy Spirit effects new birth and the inner reception of another heart, mind, and disposition” (FC, SD II:26).
  - b. **“Suffer for his sake”** - Paul has already said how his imprisonment is serving to further the gospel. This is a great theme throughout all of Christianity, suffering for the name of Jesus. (Acts 5:17-**41**)

### **Philippians 2:1-4**

4. In these verses, Paul is encouraging the church in Philippi to preach the gospel as he and they have already been doing, but to remain united while doing so.
  - a. What was Paul dealing with while preaching the gospel in prison? (re: 1:15-18a)
    - i. **2:3** - **“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”** – great memory verse!
  - b. The Church should remember who they are - one body, one family, equally sinful and equally saved and honored by Christ. Following this truth, the Church remains united.
5. **2:4** - This verse is used in the explanation of Luther’s Small Catechism in support of how we look at the 7th Commandment (you shall not steal) and covetousness in the 9th and 10th.
  - a. “We fear and love God by *not taking* God’s earthly gifts from our neighbor... We fear and love God by *looking after* our neighbor’s well-being, by helping to protect and improve our neighbor’s earthly positions; income and livelihood” (LSC, 2017, 79).

God bless!

-Pastor Brubaker