



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30” ON JANUARY 25 + 29, 2023

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER: PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30 Paul continues his letter to the Church at Philippi; it has been 10 years since he last saw the people of this church – a people he deeply cares about. A lot has happened in Paul's life and in the life of the church, and Paul is looking back on a group of people who have seen transformation – a time of seeing the gospel MOVE!

UNITY: In verse 27 Paul instructs the believers in this church to make their lifestyles, the conduct in which they live, worthy of the gospel of Christ. How was this to be accomplished?

- Jason told us that God gave us our bodies to teach us about our souls. What does that mean for our spiritual lives?
- Standing Firm in One: God's Spirit UNITES, not DIVIDES – in what areas of your life is it apparent that more can be accomplished by working together as a team than by an individual trying to accomplish the task alone? How does this translate to the spiritual life? What things make one's lifestyle 'worthy' of the gospel? And what does it mean to be one in spirit?
- Striving Toward Our Mission – what steps can we take to strive side by side to carry out the gospel - what should our 'training' look like? What roles would discipline and sacrifice make? Why does unity matter?

NO FEAR – BRAVERY: Verse 28 refers to being frightened in any way by those who oppose you; we are often told in the Scriptures not to fear.

- What causes us to make decisions out of fear? Can fear be your definition? What are the dangers of making decisions out of fear? How, then, does this apply to living out the gospel?
- As followers of Jesus, what reasons do we have NOT to fear because of His work on the cross?

CLARITY: We all know what it is to be able to see things clearly; how clear is it, then, for others to see that you are living a life for Christ with a purpose and a mission?

- If we are Christ-followers, we become a physical representation of a spiritual idea. Does the way you live your life look radically different from the lives of those around you that are not Christ-followers? Does your life clearly show a different path, a different mission?
- Do you have a purpose you are excited about each and every day? Does that purpose make a significant difference in how you make your choices each day?

SUFFERING/STRUGGLING: Verse 29 describes suffering for the sake of Christ as a God-given gift. Paul definitely felt that way!

- Has your faith ever faltered when you were struggling or suffering greatly, and you didn't expect that God would allow such struggling or suffering? What was your immediate response, and then what was your perspective after some time had passed and you were able to reflect back on that struggle?
- Are you able to remember the suffering Jesus endured on our behalf when you are in the midst of your own suffering? How does that suffering look from an eternal perspective? Does that encourage you in those hard times?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

The greatest blessing we have is Jesus! He is calling us to be citizens of His kingdom, to be Unified, Brave, Clear about who we are, and Willing to suffer for His sake. How willing are you to respond to that call? Looking back as Paul did, how have you seen the gospel move in your life or in the life of CU Church the past few years? How have you been doing at 'Loving God, Loving People'?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.