

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, October 23, 2022

The Book of Philippians

Message Summary:

[Phil. 1:27-30 NKJV] *27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. 29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear [is] in me.*

As Christians, we have to embrace the fact that a part of the Christian experience is suffering. We are called to endure hardship, largely because the world will come against us for our faith. Our faith is so different from the culture of this world. This means that to stand firm in our faith in Christ and in the life we are encouraged to live in the Bible, we will have to face persecution and struggle. But, just as our Savior suffered, we must stand strong and firm when we do struggle. And we can do this knowing we are being rewarded for remaining true to Jesus without buckling under pressure. And even though we are promised rewards in heaven for enduring suffering, there is also glory we will experience in this life for the sufferings we have endured in this life.

Other Scriptures:

- **[John 16:33 NKJV]** *"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*
- **[2 Timothy 3:12 NKJV]** *12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*
- **[1 Peter 4:12-16 NKJV]** *12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed [are you], for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. 16 Yet if [anyone suffers] as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does the Bible tell us that we will experience suffering?
2. Why do you think the fact that we are different from the world makes us a target for suffering?
3. What does it mean to be counter-culture?
4. What does the Bible promise us if we endure hardship?
5. How do we experience the rewards of remaining true in this life?

Life Application:

This week, reread our key verses for today, Philippians 1:27-30. Ask yourself this: Are you experiencing suffering? Have you ever had to endure persecution for your faith? If you have, then you are carrying the same cross as your Savior did, and there is a great blessing promised to you. But if you can't say you have ever faced the hardship of being different or the persecution of standing up against the world, then you might want to examine why. Part of the Christian experience is the discomfort of standing out for being different. We are not supposed to look like or live like the rest of the world. We are counter-culture. Evaluate your life and determine where you are or are not experiencing the resistance of living by faith.