



Philippians Group Discussion Guide Week 3

The guide follows the same format: three questions followed by prayer. My additional questions are in italics. Please especially make sure you consider the application questions I ask. Have a great study!

Read Philippians 1:27-30.

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

What does the text say? In this section we are seeking to make as many observations as we can. I encourage you to mark up the text above you (underline, circle, draw lines connecting verses/words, write short comments, etc).

- Summarize the context...what was said in the preceding verses? How does this fit within Paul's thought process?
- What are key words/phrases in the passage?
 - What are the repeated words/phrases? Why are they significant?
 - What are important connecting words and how do they help us understand Paul's point?
 - What themes or ideas are being emphasized?
 - What does this passage say about God? Man? Sin?
 - What questions do you have?
- Some other questions to help discover what the text says:
 - *Why does he start the passage with the word "only"?*
 - *What is the Gospel?*
 - *What does it mean to live in a way that is worthy of the Gospel?*
 - *What does it mean to stand firm? What does it mean to strive for the Gospel?*
 - *How does Paul emphasize the importance of community? Why is he doing that?*

- *Why would the Philippians be tempted to fear? What opposition are they facing (there is a clue in verse 30)?*
- *Paul says “this is a clear sign.” What is the sign? How does it display the Philippian’s salvation and their opponents’ destruction?*
- *What is the connection between verses 27-28 and 29-30?*
- *How can Paul see suffering as a gift of God’s grace?*
- *Look at a few passages about suffering together: James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-5, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What do we learn from these passages about how God uses suffering?*

What does the text mean?

- Describe Paul’s main point in a sentence or couple sentences. What is the big/main idea?
- What are some of the subpoints? Summarize Paul’s thought process and some of his supporting points.
- What other passages could be helpful in understanding this text better?

How do I/we apply this passage?

- What are we to think/feel/do?
- What sins does this passage expose in you/us?
- *Can you explain the Gospel to someone else?*
- *Do you live in a way that is worthy of the Gospel? Where do you see areas for growth: standing firm (growing in knowledge of God’s Word, saying no to temptation, living a holy life, etc), striving for the Gospel (sharing the Gospel with others, giving to support the work of the ministry, being involved in ministry, etc), courage (are you afraid of what others think? Does that affect your boldness for Christ?)?*

Pray

- What is there to praise God for from this passage?
- What sin(s) is there to confess?
- What is there to ask God for?