**Philippians 1:29** (NLT) For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.

**Philippians 4:11-13** (NLT) ...I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For <u>I</u> can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

At first glance we may wonder what is wrong with the apostle Paul. How can it be a privilege to SUFFER? Even if it is suffering for the Lord Jesus. Then when we remember all that Paul has been through (2 Cor. 11:24-27) we realize that Paul is speaking out of the depth of his own experience and suffering. As he writes the letter to the Philippians he is in jail and even in that circumstance he says that it is a privilege to suffer for Christ. He reminds the Christians in Philippi that the only way they can ever learn to honor Jesus during times of hardship and suffering is if they are totally dependent on HIM. Trusting in the strength and grace that only the Lord Jesus can give.

**PRAYER:** B. Pascal "You are the Sovereign Master. Do whatever pleases you. Give to me or take away from me. Conform my will to yours, and grant that with a humble and perfect submission, and in holy confidence, I may dispose myself utterly to you. May I receive the orders of your everlasting, provident care. May I equally adore whatever proceeds from you." (A Pathway Through Suffering p. 105)

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