

## Live as CITIZENS of Heaven ~ Philippians 1:27-2:4

→ Scripture Reading Phil. 1:27, 29-2:2

### Walk WORTHY of the Gospel ~ Philippians 1:27-28

<sup>27</sup> Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved - and that by God.

### IMPLICATION

<sup>27</sup> Just ONE thing: Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ... (HCS)

<sup>27</sup> ...I will know that you STAND FIRM in one spirit, CONTENDING as one man for the FAITH of the gospel <sup>28</sup> WITHOUT being frightened in any way by those who oppose you...

#### Walking Worthy means we...

- Stand FIRM - Refuse to be MOVED
- Stand FEARLESSLY - we are Not ALONE
- Strive and Compete TOGETHER - Side BY Side

**Hebrews 11:16** (NIV) ...they were longing for a better country - a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ASHAMED to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

### Suffering IS a Privilege? ~ Philippians 1:29-30

<sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to **believe** on Him, but also to **suffer** for Him, <sup>30</sup> since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

The fact that enemies cause Believers to experience the second gift indicates that they have truly received the first.  
Ellsworth

### IMPLICATION

<sup>29</sup> For it has been GRANTED to you on behalf of Christ not only to BELIEVE on Him, but also to SUFFER for Him

**Acts 5:40-42** (NLT) <sup>40</sup> ...They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them NEVER again to speak in the Name of Jesus, and they let them go. <sup>41</sup> The apostles left the high council REJOICING that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the Name of Jesus.

<sup>42</sup> And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."

#### Benefits from Suffering: LABN

- takes our eyes off of earthly COMFORTS
- weeds out superficial believers
- STRENGTHENS the faith of those who endure
- serves as an EXAMPLE for others

**Romans 5:1-5** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through FAITH, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith INTO this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the HOPE of the glory of God.

<sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also rejoice in our SUFFERINGS, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And HOPE does not disappoint us, because God has poured out HIS love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.

<sup>29</sup> For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but ALSO the privilege of suffering for Him. (NLT)

#### **Observations...**

- WHEN we suffer for our faith it does NOT mean that we have done something wrong
- At times God uses suffering to BUILD Character
- Paul never urges Christians to SEEK Suffering
- Suffering is NOT a way of Paying for our sins
- Remember we NEVER have to Suffer alone

**2 Timothy 3:11-12** (NLT) You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra - but the Lord Rescued me from all of it. Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

### **Humility NOT Selfish Ambition ~ Philippians 2:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**HUMILITY** does not mean putting ourselves down but rather lifting others up. HNTC

### **TAKE AWAY ??**

<sup>27</sup> Just ONE thing: Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you... (HCS)

**EVEN IF** - by Mercy Me

It's easy to sing - When there's nothing to bring me down  
But what will I say - When I'm held to the flame  
Like I am right now

I know You're able and I know You can  
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand  
But even if You don't - My hope is You alone

But God, when You choose - To leave mountains unmovable  
Oh give me the strength to be able to sing  
It is well with my soul

I know the sorrow, and I know the hurt  
Would all go away if You'd just say the word  
But even if You don't - My hope is You alone

You've been faithful, You've been good  
All of my days - Jesus, I will cling to You  
Come what may