

# Living for Christ when life gets hard

The gifts of BELIEF and SUFFERING  
Philippians 1:27-30 Part TWO [verse 28a-30]

Introduction:

## #1 The Main Focus: Live as CITIZENS of heaven in the colony called the CHURCH

27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; 28 in no way alarmed by your opponents—

Philippians 3:20 our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

## #2 How to Live Worthy? CLING together as a CHURCH

27-28 I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; 28 in no way alarmed by your opponents

## #3 WHY must we \_\_\_\_\_ opposition and suffering?

1<sup>st</sup> Suffering is an \_\_\_\_\_ of the eternal destiny for the believer  
and the eternal destiny for the opponent

28 again in no way alarmed by your opponents-- which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God

2 Timothy 3:12 And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

2<sup>nd</sup> Suffering is a \_\_\_\_\_ from a gracious God, just like salvation

29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake

1 We're given the gift of \_\_\_\_\_ 29 not only to believe in Him

Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sin.

John MacArthur: Men apart from God are spiritual zombies. They're the walking dead, who do not know they are dead. They go through the motions of life, but they do not possess it.

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world

God Ultimately Responsible	Man Ultimately Responsible
God's choice unconditional	God's choice dependent on man's choice.
God chose in eternity past	God's choice determined by present events
Fallen man cannot choose God	Fallen man can choose God
Faith is a gift of God	Faith is possible for all men
Justice is found in God's character	Justice is found in equal opportunity

2 Thessalonians 2:13... God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation

Romans 9:11 for though the twins were not yet born, and had not done anything good or bad, in order that God's purpose according to His choice might stand, not because of works, but because of Him who calls, 12 it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." 13 Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

## 1 We're given the gift of BELIEF *continued* 29 not only to believe in Him,

John 6:65b *no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father.*

Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.*

1 Peter 1:1 *Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:29 *to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.*

Romans 9:20 *Who are you, O man who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?*

### Why Evangelize?

Acts 10

Acts 18:10 *I have many people in this city.*

Acts 13:48 *as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed*

Acts 16:14 *a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.*

Romans 10:13 *Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed. And how shall they believe in Him who they have not heard.*

*And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent.*

## 2 We're given the gift of \_\_\_\_\_ 29 but also to suffer for His sake

Matthew 5:11 *Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. 12 Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great...*

## 3 Suffering is given to every Christian \_\_\_\_\_

30 *experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me*

2 Corinthians 4:17 *For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison*

A YOU need \_\_\_\_\_

B YOU need the \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua 24:15 *as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*

1 Kings 18:21 *How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.*

C YOU need a right \_\_\_\_\_

D YOU need God's \_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONS TO PROMOTE GROWTH IN CHRISTLIKENESS - BECOME A DOER OF THE WORD...

1-How is suffering like election?

2-How can suffering be considered a gift from God?

3-How does suffering give evidence to the eternal destiny of the Christian and Non-Christian?

4-Why do many Christians today struggle with God's ELECTION to salvation?

5-Why do I need suffering? Why do I need the Church? Why do I need Salvation to be gifted to me?

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