



# PHILIPPIANS

**BASICS FOR BELIEVERS**

Lesson Three:  
**Adopt Jesus' Death as a  
Test of Your Outlook**  
*(Philippians 1:27 – 2:18)*

**Part 1: Philippians 1:27-30**

## ***Basics for Believers***

1. Put the Gospel First (1:1-26)
2. Focus on the Cross (1:27 – 2:18; emphasis on 2:5-11)
3. Adopt Jesus' Death as a Test of Your Outlook  
(1:27 – 2:18; emphasis on 1:27-30; 2:1-4, 12-18)
4. Emulate Worthy Christian Leaders (2:19 – 3:21)
5. Never Give Up the Christian Walk (4:1-23)

# Outline for Lesson Three

Three implications that the cross has for believers who follow Christ Jesus:

1. We Are Called Not Only to Believe on Christ but Also to Suffer for Him (1:27-30)
2. We Are Called Not Only to Enjoy the Comforts of the Gospel but Also to Pass Them On (2:1-4)
3. We Are Called Not Only to Take Early Steps of Faith and Obedience but Also to Work Out Our Salvation Throughout our Lives (2:12-18)

## Philippians 1:27-28

*Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ ...*

Question 1: What does “only” mean? What is its significance?

- No matter what else happens, no matter the pressures or distractions or whatever that you’re experiencing, **certain things are central!**
- Above all else

## Philippians 1:27-28

*Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ ...*

Question 2: What does this not mean? What does it mean then?

- Does not mean to work our way to the point where we become worthy of the gospel.
- Does not mean to try harder in order to secure something.
- Does mean that because something has already been secured for us, that we should try harder **out of gratitude** and **out of frank recognition that this is what the gospel has saved us for.**

## Philippians 1:27-28

... 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, and not frightened in anything by your opponents ...*

Question 3: What three aspects of our *manner of life* (or, *conduct*) does Paul have in mind that is worthy of the gospel?

- Consistent; non-duplicitous; integrity
- Unity
- Not frightened by our opponents

## Philippians 1:27-28

*... 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.***

- Sign from God of their destruction – marks out His enemies
- Sign from God of our salvation – marks out His children
- 2 Thessalonians 1:4-8

## Philippians 1:29-30

*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**, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*

Question 4: As believers in Christ, what has been granted to us for the sake of Christ?

- Salvation and suffering

## Philippians 1:29-30

*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**, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*

Question 5: What's the difference between Christ's suffering for us versus our suffering for Christ?

- Christ's suffering is:
  - the suffering of the God-man
  - the suffering of the One who enjoyed equality with God
  - the suffering that secured forgiveness for others
  - the suffering of a guiltless victim

## Philippians 1:29-30

*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**, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*

- Mark 8:34; Acts 5:40-42
- Suffering for Jesus' sake extends beyond physical persecution
  - Countless occasions to put aside self-interest for the sake of Christ
  - Making hard, moral decisions that costs us something
  - Resisting temptation to do something we want to do simply because resisting it was the right thing to do.
  - Doing the above cheerfully because following Christ demands it

# Suffering for The Sake of Christ

Question 6 (last question): What are some real-life examples of **suffering for the sake of Jesus** that don't involve physical persecution but absolutely require dying to self, choosing obedience over comfort, and doing it with a willing heart.

# Suffering for The Sake of Christ

Each of the examples that I just read:

- Involves dying to self
- Choosing love over pride
- Obeying Christ when it costs something real
- Embracing hidden, quiet faithfulness
- Reflects the New Testament idea that following Christ often means costly, countercultural faithfulness.

This is the kind of suffering that forms Christlike character, often unnoticed by others, but **deeply precious to God**. And it is the *“manner of life (conduct) that is worthy of the gospel of Christ”* (1:27).

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