

Phil. 1:27-30

I. Only live as citizens appropriately of the Gospel of Christ (27a)

‘worthy of the Gospel’ not in the sense of deserving

But in the sense of appropriate, matching what is suitable and right

Live as citizens = conduct one’s life with reference to one’s obligations to others

II. Purpose: so that you will live rightly and I will hear about it (27b-30)

A. So that I am hearing the [good] things about you (27b-e)

1. No matter if I am present or absent (27b-d)

a Whether coming and seeing you (27b-c)

1) Coming (27b)

2) And seeing you (27c)

b Or being absent/far away (27d)

2. I am hearing the things about you (27e)

B. Specifically, what I am hearing (27f-30)

What follows is a parallel construction of 3 things which Paul highlights

1. That you are standing in one [unified] spirit (27f)

Holding conviction in belief and conduct

Unity is a theme for this section and the next

2. Specific ways that they are now and are to continue standing firm in unity (27g-30)

a Toiling together with one soul for the faith of the Gospel (27g)

b Not being intimidated, but trusting God in suffering (28-29)

1) Not being intimidated in anything by those opposing you (28a)

2) This is God’s plan and proves you are on God’s side (28b-29)

a) This is proof of their destruction and your salvation (28b-c)

The church’s upright, unified behavior in the midst of opposition testifies to their God, their ultimate vindication and the futility of all opposition to God’s sovereign plan

(1) Neg: Which is to them proof of destruction (28b)

(2) Pos: but [proof of] your salvation (28c)

b) Your standing firm under intimidation is part of God’s plan (28d-29)

(1) This is from God (28d)

(2) Reason: God has given you to believe and to suffer (29)

(a) Because this is granted to you on behalf of Christ (29a)

“granted” has the connotation of graciously given, cf. 2:9

Suffering for Christ is a privilege given by God

(b) To believe in Him and suffer for Him (29b-c)

(i) Not only to believe in Him (29b)

(ii) But also to suffer on behalf of Him (29c)

These two are parallel, suggesting that their faith is granted as much as their suffering

- c Struggling/fighting after my example (30)
 - 1) Having the same struggle/fight (30a)
 - Paul highlights the similarity of what they are going through with what he is going through
 - 2) Which you know I have and am going through (30b-c)
 - a) You saw the same kind [of struggle] in me (30b)
 - b) And you now are hearing [about the struggle] in me (30c)