

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 17

Chapter 1, verse 27: Our Godly Conversation /Christian Suffering

15 Aug 2022

Vs 27 “Only let your conversation...” This includes speech but speaks of your entire manner of life.

“...be as it becometh the gospel of Christ.”

- 1 Pet 1:15-16, our conversation must be consistent with our profession of faith in Christ.
 - We not only speak as the oracles of God (1 Pet 4:11), but the way we live our lives needs to demonstrate and validate that we belong to Jesus Christ.
 - Live in accord with the Gospel that you proclaim.

“That whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit.”

- Our behavior is always better when we are under the watchful eye of an authority figure.
- Christians are instructed to fellowship together on a regular basis (Heb 10:24-25) to help us to maintain a life of good conduct. We need the righteous influence of one another.
- This verse tells us we ought to live just as righteously in the absence of a spiritual leader as we would in their presence.
 - We need to speak right, dress right, live right, and be dedicated in our service to the Lord, whether we are in church, at home, at work, or out and about.
 - We are always in the presence of our Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ.

“I may hear of your affairs...” Good news about the church and its members is a blessing.

“...that ye stand fast...” Learning that brethren are standing fast and have not wavered or moved away from the faith brings joy to other Christians.

“...in one spirit...” These believers were harmoniously unified in their goal, their desire, their objective, and their purpose of furthering the gospel.

- No factions, no divisions, no striving, no competition, envy, jealousy, or backbiting.

“...with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” We may not think the same way, but if our minds are governed, controlled, and directed by the truths of God’s word, we can all come to this agreement: The Bible is right, and I’m going to make my decisions in life and ministry according to what the Bible says. It is my final authority.

- That mindset will override any differences that we may otherwise have with each other.

Vs 28 “And in nothing terrified by your adversaries.” Enemies of the gospel want to scare us, so we stop living for the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul prays that these believers would not let those enemies hinder their faith.

“... which is to them (the adversaries) an evident token of perdition.” When Christians suffer, the enemies of Christianity assume that those Christians are not right and are headed for perdition.

“...but to you of salvation and that of God.” When believers see another believer suffering, they see it as a sign of God’s blessing and evidence of our salvation (Luke 6:22).

- Our Savior was hated and crucified. If He suffered, so shall we (Jn 15:20).

29-30 As Christians we should expect to suffer in this life. Christians suffer the same things as unsaved men suffer. In addition, the Christian will suffer persecution from those who want them to abandon their Christian living and conform to the ways of the world.

- Count it an honor to suffer for Christ's sake and for His glory.
- The Christian's suffering has a beneficial result: it benefits the cause of the Gospel (see Acts 16:16-33 for an example).