

Live Undeterred

Philippians 1:27-30

Paul's letter to the Philippian Church was likely written near the end of his two-year "house arrest" in Rome. He was essentially a death row inmate and unsure if he would be released or executed (1:22-26).

After informing the believers at Philippi that his imprisonment amazingly served as a catalyst to advance the gospel, Paul's focus shifts to their need *to live worthy of the gospel of Christ* (1:27). This is their highest and most noble priority!

The Defining Term: *Conduct yourselves in a manner (NIV & NASB)/ let your manner of life be (ESV)/ let your conduct be (NKJV)*

The word used by Paul is rare (the only other usage is Acts 23:1) and includes overtones of citizenship. Naturally, as Paul later points out, Christians are ultimately citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20). How this privileged citizenship is carried out is stipulated in the remainder of the chapter.

1. *Standing Firm in One Spirit* (v. 27): **This requires** _____.
2. *Striving Together for the faith of the gospel* (v. 27): **This involves** _____.

3. *Without Being Frightened in Any Way by Those Who Oppose You* (v. 28): **This reflects immense _____ and _____ that such adversaries will be justly punished.**
4. *For it has been granted to you . . . not only to believe on him but also suffer for him, . . . you are going through the same struggle you saw I had . . .* (v. 29-30): **This involves a deep strength of _____.**

Application:

What does it mean to live worthy of the gospel in our homes and church? Paul used this phrase in his other letters (Roman 16:2; Ephesians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:12) but the answer is best revealed in Paul's letter to the Colossians:

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and

- *may please him in every way*
- *bearing fruit in every good work*
- *growing in the knowledge of God*
- *being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might*
 - *so that you may have great endurance and patience*
 - *and joyfully giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light* (Colossians 1:10–12).