



***How can the Philippians gladden one another and their beloved apostle? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. Philippians 1:27–30 prepares us for the afternoon exhortation on the coming Lord's Day. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, we learn that believers rejoice to see and hear of one another conducting themselves worthily of the gospel: standing unitedly, fearlessly, and thankfully.***

**Friday, March 19, 2021 • Read Philippians 1:27–30**

*Questions from the Scripture text: With what word does v27 begin? Upon what one thing are they to focus in conducting themselves? What two possibilities remain for what will happen with the apostle? What does he want to hear that they are doing in one mind and one spirit? What does he want to hear that they are doing together? For what? What does he want to hear is not happening in any way (v28)? What will this lack of fear prove to their adversaries? What would it prove to the Philippians? From Whom is this salvation and its proof coming? How did they come to believe (v29)? What else was granted to them as a gift? On Whose behalf? For Whose sake do they suffer? What do they have in themselves (v30)? In whom had they previously seen it? In whom do they now hear that it is?*

Believers, and especially pastors and their flocks, are to aim at increasing one another's joy in Christ. The apostle looked forward to making their joy in Christ abound in v26, when they discover that for him to live and return to them was fruitful labor for Christ. And now in v27 he lets them know that he would like to have his joy in Jesus Christ increased by what he hears about their affairs: that they are living as citizens of the gospel of Christ. Specifically, he wishes to hear:

That they are standing fast unitedly. That they stand fast “in one spirit.” That probably deserves a capital S, because being in one spirit is further explained as standing “with one mind.” Believers have the mind of Christ (cf. 1Cor 2:16), because it is given to them by the Spirit who knows the things of God (1Cor 2:10–15).

Christian unity is first and foremost a doctrinal unity. It is a unity forged by the Holy Spirit granting to them to be convinced of what the Holy Spirit has said in the Bible—both about Jesus and about everything else. But if they are convinced, then they will be obeying the same commandments and serving the same kingdom. So, while it is at least a doctrinal unity, it is never merely doctrinal. He also hopes to hear that they are “striving together for the faith of the gospel.

That they are standing fast fearlessly. Yes, in order to obey and serve the Lord Jesus, we must resist sin. But we must remember that there are also other enemies. Certainly the Philippian church had seen adversaries attack Paul (v30a), and they had sent Epaphroditus to him (3:25–30) when they heard that he was in chains again (v30b, cf. v7, 13, 4:14).

But when enemies attack the gospel and the church, it just shows that they are about to be destroyed by Christ (v28a). And when we fearlessly continue in our obedience to Christ, it shows that God is saving us (v28b). Rather than putting us in danger of death, the attack that exposes that living is Christ reveals that if we were to die, it would be infinite gain!

That they are standing fast thankfully. What should we do when we realize that God has made us unafraid of death? Recognize that we've been given faith as a gift on behalf of Christ (v29a), and that we have been given suffering for His sake as a second gift on behalf of Christ (v29b). How valuable is this suffering for His sake that exposes to us our salvation? Valuable enough that we learn here that Christ Himself has earned it for us. How thankful we should be for such a gift!

Would your theology gladden the brethren and the elders? How about your fearlessness? Your thankfulness?

Suggested songs: ARP46 “God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength” or TPH243 “How Firm a Foundation”

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription.** Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via [tynsa.com/hopewellarp](https://tynsa.com/hopewellarp))

Philippians chapter 1 verses 27 through 30, these are going towards only let your conduct to be worthy of the Gospel of Christ. So the weather icon and see you or emanant I may hear of your affairs that you stand fast in one spirit with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

And not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of tradition, but to you of salvation and that from God. Four to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ. Not only to believe in Him but also to suffer for His sake. Having the same conflict, which you saw in me and now here is in me.

So far the reading of God's inspired and and word.

And so in these four verses we learn one great thing or one of the main things about conduct behavior that is worthy of the gospel of Christ and that is it is a conduct in which we stand fast. Stand fast, you remember in Ephesians chapter six where previously in in the book and especially in chapter five but even earlier in Ephesians he had talked about walking which is the same idea as conduct.

And then in chapter six he emphasizes three times stand well similarly here he says let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ and then he says that he wants to hear about them that they stand fast. This part of how we give one another joy, he has expressed much joy over what he has heard about them thus far and he has just finished saying in the verses immediately preceding this that he hopes and knows that the out.

Come of what God does with his life will cause their rejoicing to abound in Jesus Christ. They're rejoicing will cause the rejoicing in Jesus Christ to abandon. So this is one of the things that helps us enables us to rejoice about one another when we see and hear that one another are standing and so he doesn't know if he's gonna get to see it or hear it he has this hope this confidence that he will be able to come to them, but he says, Whether I come and see you or I'm absent I may hear.

Of your affairs and he wants them to be having their conduct worthy of the gospel of Christ which means standing and. He describes this

standing and at least these three ways first that they would stand unitedly and the rest of verse 27 and then that they would stand fearfully verse 28 he picks that up again in verse 30 and then that they would stand thankfully so standing fast.

Unitedly, he says only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ so that whether I come and see you or I'm absent I'm a year of your affairs that you stand fast in one spirit. With one mind striving together for the faith that the gospel and he says stand fast in one spirit he does mean of course stand fast having the same inner disposition towards God believing in the Lord Jesus Christ loving God because he first loved us admitting to him but it's also probably that we stand fast by the same work of the same.

Holy Spirit the same. Power of the same Holy Spirit, so we might capitalize the s on the word spirit there that we stand fast in one spirit and this the Holy Spirit makes us to stand fast theologically first Corinthians chapter 2 verses 10 through 16 concludes with saying we have the mind of Christ verse 16 first Corinthians chapter 2, but in verses 10 through 15 leading up to that it's explained that the reason or the way that we come to have the mind of Christ is by the Holy Spirit.

Working within us. And so what the Apostles telling the Philippians here is that this standing fast this standing fast. Unitedly being one is first of all a theological unity it's a doctrinal unity that you stand fast in one spirit with one mind true. Christian unity is theological unity, it's doctrinal unity, it's not Christians deciding to hold hands even though we believe many different things.

It's Christians being convinced of the same scriptures that were inspired by the Holy Spirit and being brought to that conviction by the same Holy Spirit who has inspired them coming to the same conclusion speaking the same judgments as 1st Corinthians chapter 1, I think is verse 10 also says so it's at least theological and if it's not theological then it's not Christian unity, but if it's only theological then it's also not Christian unity because biblical theology is theology to be believed.

Practice so he doesn't just say with one mind he says what striving together so it's both a doctrinal unity but it's also a behavioral unity it's a unity in which we act in which we strive together for the faith of the gospel so that's the first part of the standing fast first aspect of the standing fast he wants to hear about that they're standing fast unitedly, but he also wants to hear that they're standing fast.

Fearfully and not he says in verse 28 in any way terrified by your adversaries believers are going to have enemies especially if we're standing fast. Unitedly in what the Bible teaches we will have enemies if you have no enemies in this world, then you can be certain that you are not standing fast in what the Bible teaches.

Because the unconverted mind the natural mind is directly opposed to God dates and aces word and so we're going to have enemies but he wants to hear that the Philippians and the Holy Spirit here is teaching us that we should stand fast not only. Unitedly but fearfully not afraid of our enemies showing to them that they are about to perish our standing fast fearfully is to them a proof of perdition doesn't mean that they're going to be.

Convinced that they are perishing they're working very hard to deny that truth and their hearts but it will come upon them and it will come upon them suddenly like we see in Sodom and Gomorrah like we heard about in the prayer meeting in Psalm 11 like the psalmist ASAP and Psalm 73 realizes when he's been worried about and even envying the wicked and then he goes to worship and he realizes there and when we have enemies who are attacking us because we are clinging to the truth of God's word.

By the ministry of God's spirit, we are not to be afraid of them why because God is going to destroy them in a moment and dreadfully and it is a proof to them a demonstration is showing to them of their perdition when we are not terrified by them, in fact, it's one of the ways in which we love our enemies when we pray for those who are enemies of the church and enemies of the gospel and even our own personal enemies one of the main things that we pray for them is that they would be converted.

But here we have one of the actions one of the strivings together for the faith of the gospel by which God might use which God might use by which God might bring them to believe in Jesus Christ because it proves to them their perdition they're coming destruction when we are not afraid of them and it also proves to us our salvation.

And a salvation that doesn't come by our working up in ourselves being strong enough to be fearless you say well I don't feel like I'm strong enough to be fearless of them they seem very scary but this says what to you it is proof of salvation and that from God he's the one who gives the fearlessness he's the one who gives the salvation and as you trust in him and as you look to him to give you more courage and you're able to value Christ more than any current comfort so that, You're not afraid of what the enemy might do to you and your more concerned about not betraying your Lord Jesus that shows an ongoing work of salvation in you which we've already heard about a couple of times in this first chapter and we'll hear about again in just a few verses in the second chapter that it is God who works in us both to will and to work according to his own good pleasure and so if you stand fast not just unitedly, but now also fearfully this both.

Shows to the enemy that there is a great destruction that is about to come upon them but it also produces fruit of the work of grace that God is doing in us so that we see the salvation that he is giving us and that from God and of course the more we see that he is saving us the stronger we will be not to be fearless and that will show if even more that he is saving us it is a virtuous cycle as the Lord helps us in standing fast fear.

Lessly now so the apostle wants to hear that there's dating fast unitedly second half of verse 27 fearfully verse 28 and then also thankfully verse 29 for to you has been granted on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him so one of the things that Jesus has earned for them is that they would believe in him but that's the start of the Christian life that's not the end of the Christian life certainly all of the Christian life is a growing and faith the righteousness of.

God is from faith and for faith we're reading Romans 1 verse 17, but this is a the gift with which the Christian life begins and here's another gift that comes in the ongoing Christian life for to you it has been granted in behalf of Christ not only to believe in him but also to suffer for his sake.

Having the same conflict which you saw in me and now here is in me and so suffering teaches us the value of Christ it's not the same conflict which they saw come upon him and have heard has come upon him certainly they saw enemies attacking Paul in philippide certainly they have heard now that he isn't chains but they have also seen him responding to what happens to him by rejoicing in Christ and counting Christ.

Worth all the sufferings saying this has been granted to me as a gift and behalf of Jesus Christ, thank you God for this suffering that weans my heart off of this world that increases my delight in the Lord Jesus and my valuing event some of them that was part of how they were converted there are probably members of this church in Philippi who were co-inmates in the jail with him as he and Silas sang the songs and then the earthquake came and they said, you know, what it'd be better to hang out with these two.

Guys than it would be to run away from the jail and so in the jailer's about to kill himself the apostles able to say nope, you know arm yourself we're all here there are probably some who one of the first things they saw and heard was that conflict that choice to treasure Christ above all things to say to live is Christ to die is gain.

I don't even know which is better to choose and he says, I want to hear about you that you are not just counting believing in Christ as a gift but suffering for Christ as a gift that you will be thankful when it is granted to you as a king grants great gift as subjects when it is granted to you in behalf of Christ to suffer and you have this conflict in you where you hardly know which is better to continue suffering for Christ or to enter immediately into Christ's presence because, In both of those you are valuing Christ above all things so he wants to hear about them that they are conducting themselves in a manner that is worthy of the gospel of Christ and what does conducting ourselves in a manner that is worthy of the gospel of Christ look like we want to know.

Because we trust in him and we love him and we want to honor him and the way that we live well this is how it looks like it looks like standing fast in three different ways standing fast. Unitedly first of all in doctrine, but then an action that acts upon that doctrine standing fast fearlessly not being afraid of our adversaries showing to them that the the Lord is about to destroy them and showing to one another that the Lord is doing a work of grace and us at the Lord is saving us.

And then standing fast thankfully counting it a gift to suffer for the Lord and having in us this conflict where it's such a great gift that we're actually hard-pressed to know which we shall choose to depart which is better by far or to remain and do that fruitful work that has been assigned to us so long as we remain.

Stand fast unitedly and fearlessly and thankfully. Let's pray. Thank you lord for. This portion of your word, thank you that. You have given us to suffer a little bit, thank you for the prospect that. Bar and great revival for which we long and we pray that you might get much glory by bringing yet it might be in your.

Secret will your decree of will that we will come to suffer much more before too long and that it has been granted to us and behalf of Christ not only to believe in his name but also to suffer for his sake. And we pray that you would help us to gladden one another.

By being able to observe in each other that we are standing fast now we are standing fast in one mind and striving together theologically and behaviorally that we are standing fast fearlessly and showing our certainty of how things end. And destruction upon the enemies and in the final and full salvation for those who are yours, so grant to us that we would be fearless that we would be courageous.

And then grant to us we pray that we would be thankful for whatever suffering is granted to us for Jesus' sake and whose name we ask also that you would do it amen.