

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

- **“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the spirit. Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.”**

Philippians 2:10-15

- **“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...”**

Philippians 2:10-15 (Cont'd)

- **For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That you may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you shine as lights in the world;”**

Encouraged in this fight together!



Philippians 1:27-30

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- **27** Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel **28** without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

Philippians 1:27-30 (Cont'd)

- This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Whatever happens...

- **Not fatalism or nihilism, etc.**
- **Not resignation or depression**
- **Calm acceptance of circumstances**
- **Recognition that God can work through anything!**
- **“All is well, all is well, and all shall be well” —famous prayer by Julian of Norwich**

Conduct yourselves...

- **Responsibility for behavior and conduct**
- **Conduct yourselves/live your life (Acts 23:1)**
- **Soldier metaphor—behavior reflects on others**
- **“Only worthily of the gospel...” Guiding principle in all of our conduct**
- **Gets readers ready for “mind of Christ” in next paragraph of chapter 2**

I will know

- **Whether I come or not**
- **Your oneness...in the Spirit &**
- **striving together as one**
- **For the faith of the gospel—faith it generates, and faith it contains!**
- **Unity is vital to the fight & struggle**

Don't Be Frightened

- **Communications professor At Harding U—PhD on “fear in the news”**
- **Plan Relevant, Realistic Active Shooter Tabletops: Prepare for a Threat & Negotiate a Culture of Fear**
- **Those who oppose you**
- **Oneness will be a sign to them (demonstration of destruction)**
- **We are saved by God**

Suffering & Struggling Together

- It has been granted (graced to you)
- Concerning Christ (everything about him!)
- But...two things in particular
 1. to believe in Him
 2. to suffer concerning him/on his behalf/with him

Same conflict (agona, ἀγῶνα)...agony/struggle

- Paul & Silas in prison (**Acts 16:16-40**)... encouraged them!

Conclusion

- **We are in this thing called “life” together. We are struggling and fighting beside one another for the kingdom of God.**
- **Satan is never happy when God’s people fight together on the same side for the faith of the gospel!**