

- What do you think its completion “in the day of Christ” will look like?
- In what ways are the Philippians ‘partakers’ of ‘grace’ with Paul?
- How do you think that “standing firm” “with one mind” is a sign to their opponents?



DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

Paul is in prison but continues to put his concerns about the Philippians church over his own concerns.

- How good are we at setting aside our own problems for the good of others?

Paul encourages the Philippians to “stand firm” in their faith.

- How firm are you standing in your faith? How could you improve your ‘standing’?

Paul talks about his suffering for his faith, and suggests the Philippians will suffer too.

- How ready are you to suffer for your faith?

Paul write to the Philippians from prison, yet this is a letter filled with confidence and joy. Let us take heart that God can bring peace, hope and joy in even the darkest situations. It may be good to spend some time in prayer for those who suffer in this day and age for the gospel of Christ.

A Short Study of PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11, 27-30

In this short study of the first chapter of Paul’s letter to the Philippians, Paul gives thanks for the Philippian church and prays that they will grow in faith and stand firm together, leading a life worthy of the gospel.

Copyright © Karl R B Jones, 2017
TBC011.01.01S

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All right reserved.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11, 27-30

- 3 *I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,*
4 *always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,*
5 *because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.*
6 *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will*
bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
7 *It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in*
my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my
imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.
8 *For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of*
Christ Jesus.
9 *And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with*
knowledge and all discernment,
10 *so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and*
blameless for the day of Christ,
11 *filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ,*
to the glory and praise of God.
27 *Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that*
whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you
are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for
the faith of the gospel,
28 *and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign*
to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.
29 *For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should*
not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,
30 *engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I*
still have.

OBSERVATION

Mark all the occurrences of the word 'prayer.' Paul often starts his letters with some kind of thanksgiving or prayer.

- For what is Paul giving thanks?
- What is the emotional tone of Paul's prayer?
- Look at verses 9 to 11. What does Paul pray for the Philippians?
- To what end does Paul pray this?

Paul expresses confidence concerning a "good work."

- Who began the "good work" and who will complete it?
- When will that "good work" be completed?

Paul encourages the Philippians to "stand firm."

- What do you think Paul means by that?

Paul wrote this letter while he was in prison for preaching the gospel. He believes that his imprisonment will bring glory to God and will be for the benefit of those to whom he is writing. In response Paul asks the Philippians to "let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel."

- How does Paul describe such a life?

INTERPRETATION

Paul is confident about the "good work" being done in the lives of the Philippians.

- What do you understand is the "good work" being referred to in this passage?