

# **Contending for the Gospel**

*Philippians 1:27-30*

***Introduction:*** Conforming Christianity

**LIVE for the GOSPEL** (1:27; Luke 9:23-26)

***Citizens of a Better City*** (Phil. 3:20; 2 Cor. 5:20-21)

**Philippians 3:20** But our ***citizenship is in heaven***. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

***Citizens Living Out Their Citizenship*** (Luke 9:23-26)

**CONTEND for the GOSPEL** (1:27; 3:14; 2 Tim 4:7-8; Jude 1:3)

**Philippians 4:3** Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

***Contending for the Gospel is a Team Sport*** (Acts 2:46; 4:32)

**Acts 4:32** All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

***Contending for the Gospel Has One Prize*** (3:14)

**Philippians 3:14** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus

## **SUFFER for the GOSPEL** (1:28-30; John 19:9-11; Acts 16:19-25)

*Suffering for Christ is a **Sign*** (John 19:9-11; Matt. 10:28)

**John 19:10-11** "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above."

**Matthew 10:28** Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

*Suffering for Christ is a **Blessing*** (29; Matt. 5:10-12; Acts 5:41)

**Matthew 5:10-12 *Blessed*** are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> "***Blessed*** are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Acts 5:41** The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been *counted worthy* of **suffering disgrace for the Name.**

*Suffering for Christ is a **Team Effort*** (30)

***Conclusion:* How Will You Contend for the Gospel?**

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