

# **PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL**

## **A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS**

### **Community Group Questions May 3, 2020**

**Suffering for His Sake** Philippians 1:28-30

#### **Kicking Things Off**

How are we doing this week?

#### **Getting Into It**

Read Philippians 1:27-30

Review what it means to “conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ” and why this is so important for being a good partner in the gospel.

Why does Paul remind us not to be alarmed by our opponents? Who are these opponents and how do we keep from being alarmed?

How is our confidence in God, standing firm together united in the gospel, a sign of destruction for those who oppose the gospel?

So, there are opponents of the gospel and those who represent the gospel. What does Paul mean when he writes, “For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake”?

Paul talks about the “conflicts which you saw in me”. What had they seen Paul endure while in their presence in Philippi? Review some of the sufferings for Christ’s sake that Paul endured by reading 2Cor. 11:23-28.

Through no fault of our own, most of us will not suffer for Jesus in the same way that Paul did. How do we connect with what he is saying and what he says the Philippians would endure?

Why are we to consider suffering for Christ’s sake a blessing from God (granted to you)?

What did Jesus mean when He said, “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it”?

What happens when we live for something as if it’s an “ultimate” that actually is not an “ultimate”?

What are some of the idols of your heart that have surfaced as a result of our current set of circumstances?

On Sunday, David quoted Lt. Spears from Band of Brothers who said to the frightened Private Blythe, “We’re all scared. You hid in that ditch because you think there’s still hope. But Blythe, the only hope you have is to accept the fact that you are already dead. And the sooner you accept that, the sooner you will be able to function as a soldier is supposed to function. All war depends upon it.” Paul said, “Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.” As Christians, we have died to self and live to God. Where do we find ultimate hope? How does that help us to suffer well for Christ’s sake?

#### **The Parting Shot**

Spend some time praying for each other, that we stand firm together for the gospel and that God will continue to protect the unity we have at The Fields?