

## **Solidarity in Suffering (Philippians 1: 27-30) part 1**

- vs 18b-26 Paul's one passion: "To live is Christ, to die is gain" (22)
- Two alternatives he faced in prison: ongoing life, fruitfulness or martyrdom
- Paul's joy: whichever one was the outcome he rejoiced in Christ's will
- Paul's focus shifts from his trial to the trial the Philippian believers faced
- Paul says: struggle he had when he was in Philippi they are having now (30)
- Philippi strong Roman colony, planting the church was not easy (Acts 16:21)
- A decade later: still facing hostility Paul encourages them to stand together
- Their persecution: clear sign they were saved & their enemies = destruction
- Unity, courage and humility are needed to stand against those who hate us.

### **I. Live where you Are as Citizens of Heaven (1:27a)**

- "Only" –Paul expects the Philippians to stand firm whatever happens to him
- "let your conduct" Greek verb – which has at its core meaning –"citizen"
- Roman's valued citizenship: behavior that enhances - reputation of ones city
- Paul focuses on our citizenship in heaven (3:20), not Roman citizenship
- Word has military aspect "citizen soldiers" –two aspects of this highlighted
  - 1) unity/togetherness: in the heat of the battle, troops stand together
  - 2) courage: without courage we cannot resist the enemy
- Christians: selfless humility – heart of unity & courage & confidence

### **II. Bound Together Through Selfless Humility (1:27b)**

- Unity = mark and distinguishing trait of a citizen of the kingdom:
- 27b "One spirit" "with one mind" "striving together"
- Idea of Roman legionnaires: locked shields, front & above advancing forward
- Unity through the Spirit, will keep you together in a hostile world