

## **How to Help Your Team Win the Victory** **Philippians 1:27-30**

### **Introduction:**

1. The Bible teaches that there is presently a great spiritual conflict taking place on this earth. The conflict is between the church of the Lord Jesus Christ and the armies of Satan. Ephesians 6:10-12
  - In 1 Timothy 5:14-15 Paul refers to Satan as our adversary, as does Peter in 1 Peter 5:8.
2. Let me explain to you what the battle is about.
  - We, as believers in Christ, have had something very precious committed to our trust. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 2:4
  - We have been commissioned to get this gospel out to the world.
  - Satan, our adversary, wants that good news squelched. He does not want it to get out to this world - to Daytona Beach, Port Orange, the United States, or any other nation. 2 Corinthians 4:4
  - **Illustration:** The gospel is like a football. We are trying to advance it, and Satan wants to stuff us at the line of scrimmage and stop its advance. In fact, he wants to push us backward. The gospel is what releases people from Satan's slavery.
3. With that understanding of the spiritual conflict we are in, let's read Philippians 1:27.
  - “*Striving together*” literally means “to wrestle in company with.”
  - So Paul tells the church, “You are on the same team. You are fighting and striving **together** (as a team) for the faith and the advancement of the gospel.”
  - That is our job description, Church. That is our mission.
4. As a local assembly of believers, we are on the same team, and we must advance the gospel of Jesus Christ. But how are we going to advance the gospel of Christ? How will we get the job done? It will take team players with each one doing our part.
5. There are three simple truths that Paul teaches us:

### **First, it will take consistency. vs. 27**

1. Paul refers to their “*conversation*” in verse 27.
  - This is actually an Old English word that refers to your daily conduct and lifestyle, not simply your speech (although that would be included).
  - So when Paul talks about your “*conversation*,” he is referring to how you live life on a daily basis.
2. Paul is teaching that our daily life should be such that it is becoming to the gospel.
  - **Illustration:** Your wife comes out in a new dress and you say, “That dress is very becoming on you.” It brings attractiveness to her. She’s already beautiful, but that dress accents her beauty.
  - Our lives should make the good news of Jesus Christ look attractive. The gospel of Christ **is** beautiful, but our lives should accentuate its beauty.

3. If your life is becoming to the gospel, it means that people are **drawn** to the gospel by the way you live life and conduct yourself.
4. Our lives should be drawing people to the gospel. Titus 2:12 says that our lives should be adorning (beautifying) the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. cf. Colossians 1:10
5. If the gospel is going to advance forward, it will take believers who live lives that are consistent with what they say they are.
  - **Illustration:** Back to football! When the quarterback says “Hike!” can you imagine if one person starts kicking the football like a soccer ball, another starts trying to dribble it like a basketball, another gets a bat and starts trying to hit it like a baseball. We would say, “Come on guys, if you say you’re football players, act like it!”
  - The gospel brings salvation, forgiveness, God's indwelling Spirit, and makes us new creatures in Christ. Our lives should reflect this radical change.
6. Do you know what the biggest challenge is in advancing the gospel? People who **say** they are Christians and don't **behave** like Christians.
7. If we are going to advance the gospel of Christ and fulfill the mission we have been given, it will take the members of CrossRoads living lives that are consistent with what we say we are. We are to be lights, not blend in with the darkness. Philippians 2:15
  - When we fail, we admit it. There is no façade. We live real and authentic lives unto Christ.

## **Second, it will take camaraderie**

1. Notice the phrase in verse 27, “*Striving together...*” This phrase gives us our English word “athletics.” Paul is envisioning the church as a team, and he reminds them that teams work together if they are to win victories. Winning teams have camaraderie.
2. We are all different and unique individuals, but we should be unified in our love for God, our love for His Word, our faith in Jesus Christ, and our desire to see His gospel spread throughout Daytona Beach and the world.
3. Satan's plan is to fracture the church with internal divisions. Why is this plan? Because if we are fighting each other, we won't have the energy or passion to fight him and to send out the gospel.
4. Satan uses things like bitterness, gossip, a critical spirit, big egos, jealousy, etc. It doesn't always have to be a big issue. It can be a minor issue that he simply gets people to hold a grudge about. We need a constant application of Ephesians 4:32.
5. Have you ever been on a team where there was one person who had to be in the spotlight and get all the praise? People like that make it difficult for the rest of the team.
  - A church is like a team. Each person has his or her assigned place or job, and if each person is doing that job it helps all the others on the team. Not everybody can be the quarterback or leading scorer.

- Each person has to know his or her role on the team and fulfill it to the glory of God and the advancement of the gospel.

### **Third, it will take courage**

1. As our church spreads the gospel of Christ, let's make one thing clear - there are adversaries. vs. 28
2. As we already said earlier, Satan opposes the spreading of the gospel, and he uses **people** to accomplish this purpose.
3. A Christian must have backbone and courage because not everyone will love you and pat you on the back when you share Christ as the only way to heaven, and you stand for the Bible as God's Word.
4. In fact, it very well could include a certain degree of suffering. vs. 29; cf. 2 Timothy 3:12
5. But Paul says, "Don't be terrified of your adversaries." In other words, don't be afraid of them. Then Paul gives the church several encouragements.
  - First, these battles demonstrate the reality of your salvation. vs. 28
  - Second, it is a privilege to suffer for Christ. vs. 29
  - Third, others are experiencing the same suffering. vs. 30
    - Satan wants us to think that we are all alone in the battle and that we are the only one suffering.
    - Maybe you are here today and you feel like giving up. Don't do it. Take courage.
    - If we, as a church, are going to fulfill our God-given mission and proclaim the gospel of Christ, we must demonstrate relentless courage. 2 Timothy 2:3