

## Striving Together to Advance the Gospel – Part 1

### 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**
  - Paul refers to Satan as our adversary in **1 Timothy 5:14-15** as does Peter in **1 Peter 5:8**.
2. Let me explain to you what the battle is over.
  - 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, Port Orange, 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 wrestling team. You are fighting and striving **together** (as a team) for the faith or the advancement of the gospel."
  - That is our job description, church - that is our mission.
4. As a local assembly of believers, how are we going to advance the gospel of Christ? How will we get the job done? How can we infiltrate enemy lines and advance the precious gospel of Christ?
5. There are three simple truths that Paul will teach us here in this text.

#### First, by living a life that is consistent with the gospel. 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 lives should be such that they are 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 you. You're already beautiful, but that dress accents your beauty."
  - Our lives should make the good news of Jesus Christ look attractive. The gospel of Christ **is** beautiful, but our lives 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.  
**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 - if the quarterback says, "Hike!" can you imagine if one person starts kicking it like a soccer ball, another starts trying to dribble it like a basketball, another gets a bat and starts trying to hit 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 a new person 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.
  - Christians who have the same mindset as everybody else at work. Non-Christians say, "He lies like everybody else and it doesn't seem to bother him, steals from the company, cheats customers, gossips about fellow workers, disrespects the boss, goofos off when the boss isn't around, etc."
7. When your actions match your beliefs, this is called integrity.
8. When your actions contradict your beliefs, this is called hypocrisy.
9. Integrity doesn't mean perfection, but when we fail and our lives come up short of God's Word, we admit our sins and failures. We don't try to project this image that we are perfect. This is repulsive to others.
10. Paul admonished Jewish believers of this very thing. **Romans 2:21-24**
  - Paul says, "You say you believe this or that and project this image, but your life and actions don't match." People pick up on this sort of thing real quick.
  - Paul said that because of their hypocrisy, God's name was blasphemed among the Gentiles. The football was going backwards.
11. Christian, let me show you God's plan for all of us. **2 Thessalonians 1:12**
  - The name of Jesus Christ being glorified in you.
12. 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 darkness.  
**Philippians 2:15**
  - When we fail, we admit it. There is no façade - we live real and authentic lives unto Christ.