

Encouraging Words for Challenging Times
The Gospel's Endurance
Philippians 1:19-30

Understanding One's Place

1:19-26

Paul knew that Christian commitment cannot happen apart from the body. In fact, Christian growth requires a focus on the body as the vehicle of expression of the true person, and as the instrument for receiving the communications of others. The person is intimately connected to the body, and Paul easily localized Christian commitment in the physical parts of his body. Since, therefore, he had committed his body to God and served him through the body, he had to continue to glorify him there as well. The immediate context confirms this conclusion where, in 1:24, he again referred to life in the body.

Philippians, Colossians, Philemon

Understanding One's Impact

1:27-30

Conduct yourselves (Grk "live your lives as citizens"). The Philippians lived in a free Roman city, and thus understood from their own experience what it meant to live as citizens. Paul is here picking up on that motif and elevating it to the citizenship of heaven. Cf. 3:20 (*our citizenship is in heaven*).

The NET Bible First Edition Notes

The second explanation of standing firm is negatively stated: "without being frightened." The term occurs only here in the New Testament and suggests a reflex action resulting from being startled. The church was to have an unflinchable steadfastness, even in the midst of persecution. Whoever the opponents were at this point, they were not to intimidate the Philippians.

Philippians, Colossians, Philemon

**The Gospel encourages us to understand
our place and impact.**

Q1. Where has God uniquely placed you for the Gospel?

Q2. What impact could you miss out on by not following Christ?