

Have you done your Civic Duty?

Philippians 1:27-30

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have. ¹

After sharing some personal information with the Philippians, Paul now begins to give them some instructions. In 1:27-2:18, Paul talks about the importance of maintaining unity. He begins by pointing out this important responsibility:

As citizens of heaven, we are to stand united against opposition.

☐ The Duties of Christian Citizens (27-28)

Christian citizens consistently represent their homeland (27a).

They demonstrate:

Steadfastness in unity (27b).

Teamwork in a common cause (27c).

Fearlessness in the face of opposition (28).

☐ The Privileges of Christian Citizens (29-30)

Christian citizens are “graced” with belief and suffering.

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.