



## Stepping Stones

### Philippians 1:27-30 New Revised Standard Version

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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**"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." -Henry Ford**

Whether Paul appeared in Philippi once more was beyond the point. The Philippians had encouraged the apostle's heart as a result of their progress in the Gospel and they needed to keep it up. Paul expressed his desire to see them face to face, but, even if he did not do so, the Philippians needed to remain faithful even in the face of stiff opposition.

Some will refer to these verses as Paul's "thesis statement" for having written to the Philippians. Much is communicated in a tight space which details what it meant for the community in Philippi to carry out their lives "worthy of the Gospel." Paul's emphasis was not so much on individual faith as it was upon what the Philippians could be and accomplish together.

When it comes to having a good attitude as the Church, we must rediscover the need we have for each other. "Lone Ranger Christianity" is not God's intention for our faith journey, but neither is being with others and doing our own thing. If the Philippians were to live worthy of the Gospel, Paul knew they would have to stick together forming a united front. Should it be any different for us?

- 1. Standing firmly with others prevents us from falling.**
- 2. Striving faithfully with others makes the mission happen.**
- 3. Supporting fervently each other helps meet the challenges.**

**Prayer Pebble:** Lord, forgive me for the times I forsake my fellowship with other believers. Help me to realize the important role which others play in my faith journey and I in theirs. We as the Church are better together. Amen.