

# Our Christian Conduct

## Introduction

- 1. The Christians in Philippi lived in a city which had a great heritage of citizenship.**
  - A. Philippi was a Roman colony whose citizens were very proud of their citizenship.**
  - B. These Christians were members of the first European church Paul had founded.**
    - 1) In the letter that Paul writes to them, he directs them to live a life worthy of the gospel of Christ because they were citizens of the Kingdom of Christ.**

Philippians 1:27-28 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

## **Manner of Life**

**1. The Greek word translated "manner of life" means to behave as a citizen.**

**A. This is something with which the Philippians were well acquainted.**

**1) Paul wants them to understand the significance of being citizens of the kingdom of heaven.**

Philippians 3:20 For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

**2) It will take determination and willpower.**

**3) They need to be passionate about their citizenship.**

**2. The Christian, as a citizen of the Kingdom of God, is to live worthy of the gospel.**

**A. Being worthy means being loyal, a person of integrity and conviction.**

**1) Christians must possess a passionate patriotism for the gospel.**

## Stand Firm

### 1. To stand firm is to be immovable.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- A. **Christians are not to be moved from their kingdom citizenship by anyone or anything.**
- B. **They are not to be moved by circumstances, social pressures, feelings or emotions, comfort, persecution or ridicule.**
  - 1) **They must take an unflinching stand for the truth of the gospel and a stand against evil and falsehood.**

Luke 17:10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. **We have done what was our duty to do.**' "

### 2. Our society wants us to go along with it, give into its worldly desires and pleasures.

- A. **It is far easier to follow the world than to take a stand against it.**

### 3. Jesus tells us how serious He is about His followers taking a stand for righteousness and remaining firm in that stand:

**Matthew 5:29-30**

- A. **The apostle Paul showed us by the life he lived the value and importance of remaining steadfast and firm always.**  
**Colossians 1:22-23**

## Striving Side By Side

**1. Athletic contests require self-discipline, training, practice, work, sweat, concentration, and the will to win.**

**A. Paul wanted the Corinthian Christians to strive for their spiritual prize with the same intensity as the Olympic athletes strove for their physical prize.**

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.** And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, **but we for an imperishable crown.**

**B. How much is the eternal prize worth to us? Is it worth all the energy and work that it requires?**

**1) The Christian life is not a walk in the park. We must constantly be striving and going forward.**

**Philippians 3:7-8, 12-14**

**2. Is the prize worth striving against family and friends?**

**A. Is it worth working hard to attain?**

**B. Is it worth giving up the pleasures and sins of this world?**

**The apostle Paul said:**

2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but **also to all who have loved His appearing.**

## Not Frightened By Your Opponents

**1. The Kingdom of God can never be destroyed – it is unshakable. Christians are citizens of this eternal kingdom.**

**A. No one can rob us of our heavenly inheritance.**

**B. Thieves can't break through and steal it. It is imperishable.**

1 Peter 1:4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

**C. The enemy, Satan, cannot destroy us – or our inheritance!**

Ephesians 6:11-13 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

**1) Let us reflect on the words given to us in 2 Kings 6:**

2 Kings 6:16-17 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

## Conclusion

**1. As citizens of the heavenly kingdom, Christians are called to live lives worthy of the gospel. We must stand firm, strive valiantly, and not be frightened by our opponent.**

**Romans 8:31**

