

## ***The Privilege of Persecution*** *Philippians 1:27-30*

### **Standing firmly in unity is a goal you need to strive for. 27**

(27) This is a topic sentence for what follows--*worthy conduct* is then described in 2:27b-4:9. NLT is best translation: *Live out your citizenship* (3:20, Acts 23:1); it's a play on dual citizenship (Roman / heaven). Unity is stressed (2:2, 4:2 / Eph. 2:18, 4:3-6), as the goal is to stand firm and strive together side by side (military / athletic imagery).

### **Suffering for Christ is a gift you don't need to fear, 28-30**

This is just one of many passages on persecution. See Matt. 5:10,11, Jn. 15:19,20, Acts 14:22, I Thess. 3:2-4, II Tim. 3:12, I Pt. 4:1,12-14

(28) Don't be shook up / afraid about suffering persecution for Christ.

These opponents probably = Roman mobs, recall Acts 16. 28b is meant to encourage us when suffering, see II Thess. 1:4-9.

*Sign of destruction for them:* their opposition = omen of destruction.

*Sign of salvation for you:* your persecution = proof of deliverance.

(29) Persecution is not only not odd but is ordained (*granted* = derived from a *gift / favor*) —the opportunity to suffer for Christ is considered as blessed as the opportunity to believe (see above passages).

(30) This suffering is persecution akin to Paul's (Acts 16) and not just suffering in general or imagined suffering (*for Christ's / His sake*).

Question: What about persecution for us? What should we do since we have felt so little persecution? See 4:14.

