

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus



Paul's Letter to the

Philippians

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”—
(Philippians 1:1:21–30)



PHILIPPIANS

Joy No Matter What

Introduction To The Book of Philippians

● **Those IN CHRIST can HAVE TRUE JOY & PEACE:**

- Regardless of our past - (our sins or what others have done to us)
- Regardless of our circumstances - (Our physical or material condition or how others are mistreating us)

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”

- We cannot control what happens to us, but we can control our response to what happens to us!
- If we focus on the “BAD” we will lose sight of the “GOOD!”
- God can use “BAD” things To accomplish “GOOD” things!



Philippians 1:21–30 (NKJV)

²¹ For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ²² But if *I* live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better. ²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

Philippians 1:21–30 (NKJV)

²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

Philippians 1:21–30 (NKJV)

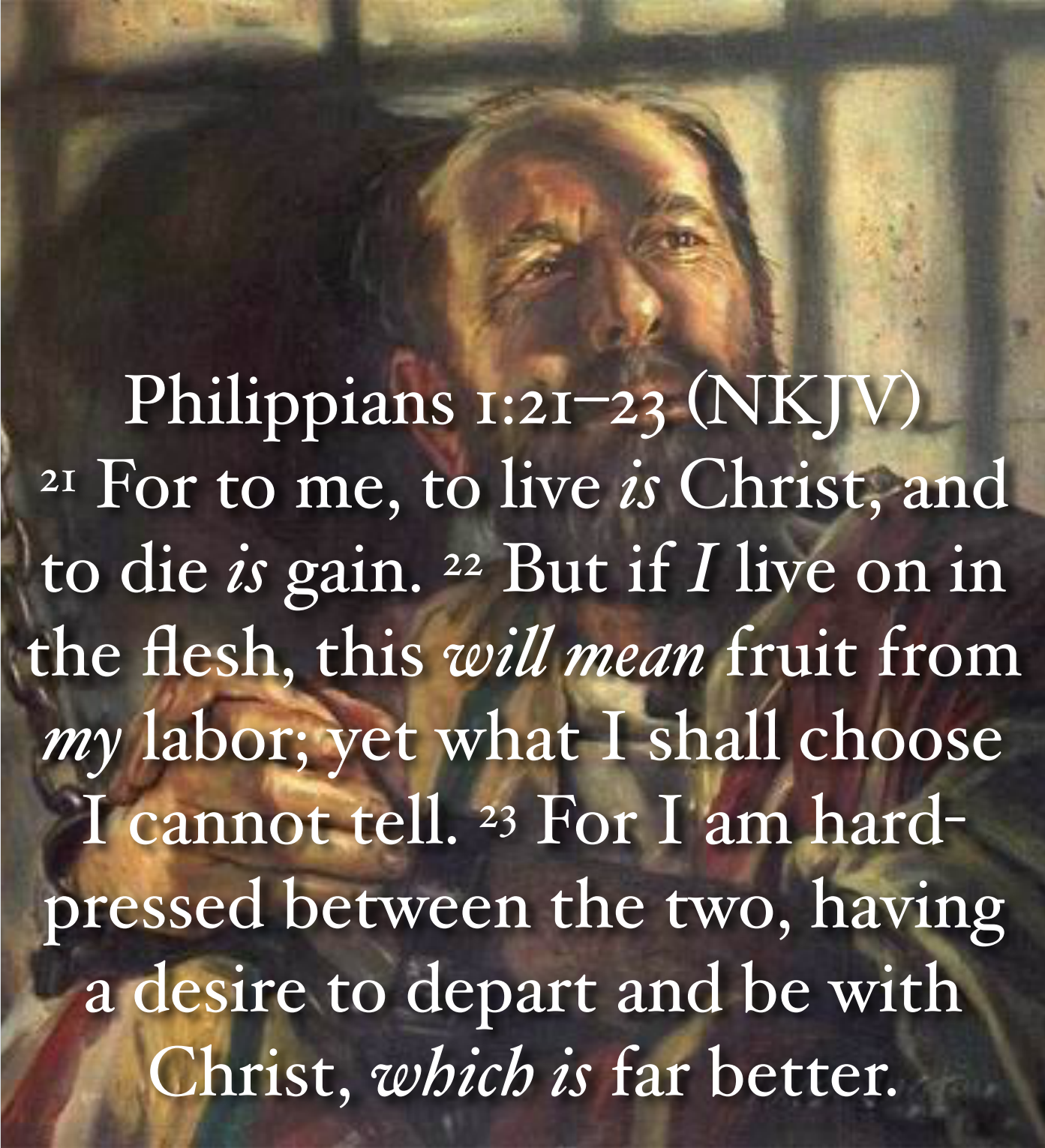
²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them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

Philippians 1:21–30 (NKJV)

²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,
³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”

CHRIST MAGNIFIED IN LIFE OR DEATH (19-23)



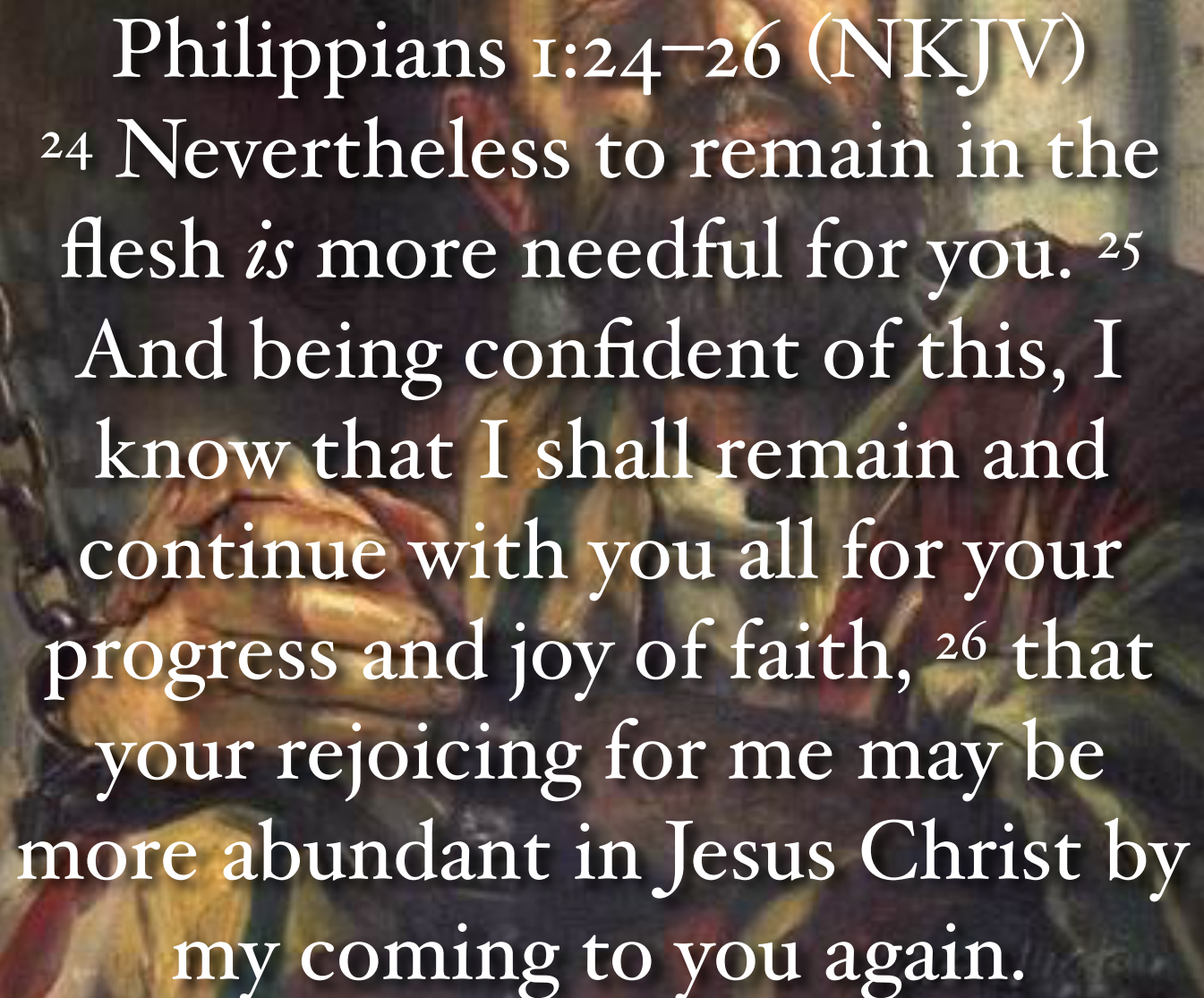
Philippians 1:21-23 (NKJV)

²¹ For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ²² But if *I* live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better.

- Paul's whole purpose in life, regardless of circumstance, was to serve Christ — (3:7-9; Col. 2:1; 3:1-4; Gal 2:20; 1 Pet 4:2.)
- Living in this world meant more labor and more fruit — (vs. 24; 1 Cor. 3:5-14)
- If Paul had a choice between magnifying Jesus in Life or in death - which would he choose?

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”

BRETHREN'S WELL BEING IN MIND (24-26)



Philippians 1:24-26 (NKJV)
²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you. ²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

- Paul's selfless attitude is revealed here by his placing his friends' needs above his own desires. — (2:1-4)
- Paul knew that if the Lord allowed him to continue in the flesh, he would be of great benefit to the church — (Acts 20:29-31)
- Paul's return would be a cause of great rejoicing - but mostly a source of edification.

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”

OUR "BEHAVIOR AS CITIZENS" (19-23)



Philippians 1:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ 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,

- **CONDUCT:** In the Greek, literally means "behave as citizens"
- ◆ The citizens of Philippi, were expected to "behave as citizens" of Rome.
- ◆ Paul applies this term to the life of a Christian whose "citizenship" is in heaven - cf. Php 3:20
- ◆ Though we may live on earth, we are to "behave as citizens" of heaven!

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”

OUR "BEHAVIOR AS CITIZENS" (19-23)



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- To act unworthy of the gospel would bring shame upon the gospel & our Lord!
- The apostle Peter would have us remember the importance of proper conduct as we "sojourn" here in a country not our own - 1 Pe 2:11-12
- If we are NOT "behaving as citizens" in a manner "worthy" of the gospel, then the only alternative is behaving in an "UNworthy" manner!

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”

OUR "BEHAVIOR AS CITIZENS" (19-23)



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- Paul's hope was that the Philippians' "behavior as citizens" was not dependent upon his presence — 2:12
- Likewise, our behavior should not be dependent upon the presence of other Christians, but upon the presence of Christ alone! — Dan 1:5; Gen. 39:9
- Live in such a way, that when people speak the truth about us it is always good — Eph 1:15; Col. 1:4

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”

"STANDING FAST" (27)



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- **AGAINST** — (Gal 2:11)
 - Sin — Eph 5:3-13; 6:11
 - Opposition — 2Cor 16:13
 - All error — Gal 5:1-4
- **FOR** — (cf. 4:1)
 - The Faith — Acts 26:22; Jude 3,4; 1Cor 16:13,14
 - God's work — 1Cor 15:58
 - One another — Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12:25,26; Heb 3:12,13; 10:24,25

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”

“IN ONE SPIRIT” (27)



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- We are not to stand strong by ourselves, in isolation from one another, but in UNITY! — John 17:20,21; Eph 4:1-3; 1 Cor. 1:10
- ◆ The importance of UNITY in our conduct will be developed further in this epistle - 2:1-4, 14-16; 3:15,16; 4:2
- ◆ A divided house CANNOT stand — Luke 11:17,18

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”

“WITH ONE MIND” (27)



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- A mutual LOVE for and ADHERENCE to the truth — Jn 17:20,21; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:4-6
- ◆ One body
- ◆ One Spirit,
- ◆ One hope of your calling;
- ◆ One Lord,
- ◆ One faith,
- ◆ One baptism;
- ◆ One God and Father of all

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”

“STRIVING TOGETHER” (27)



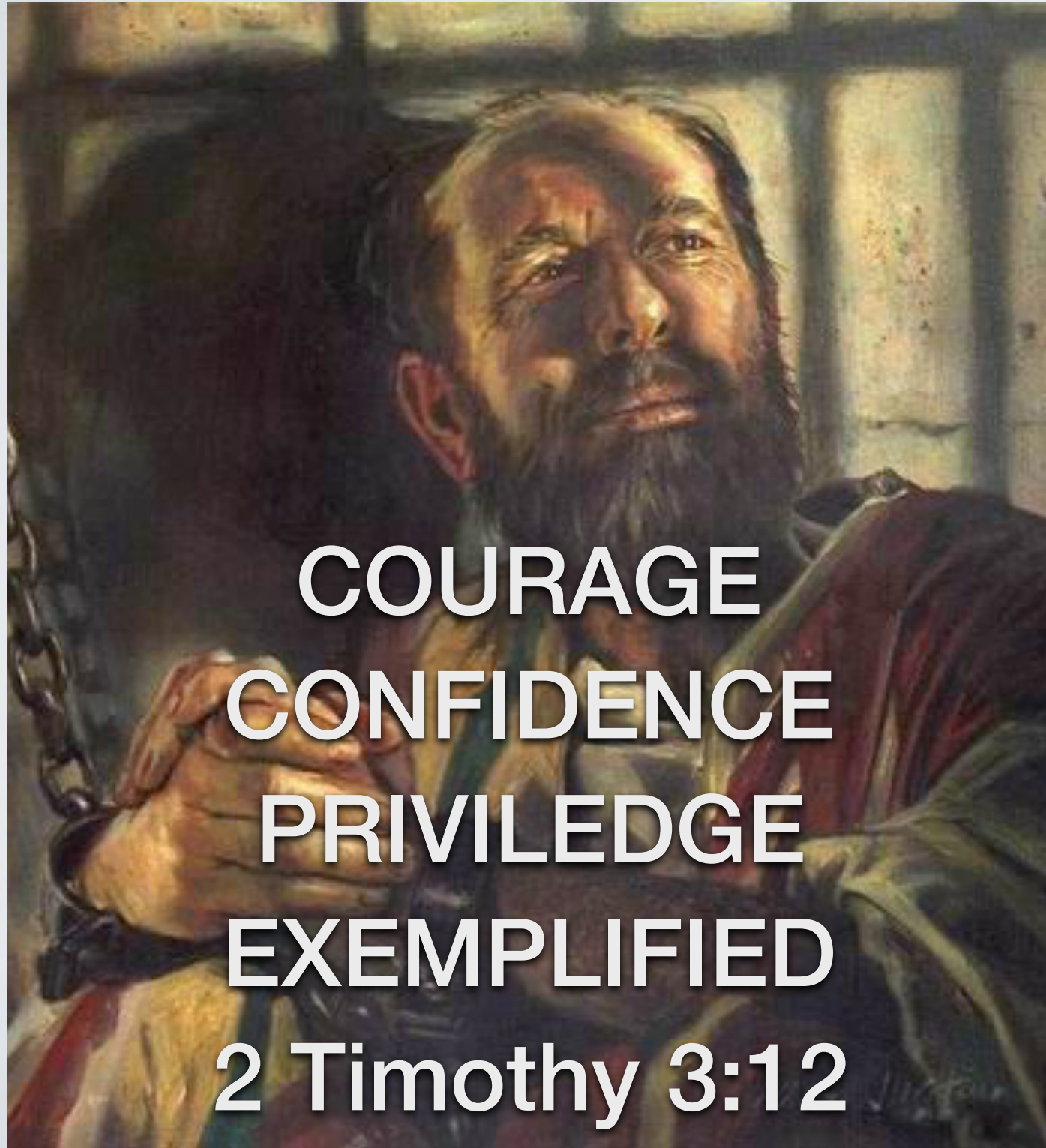
Philippians 1:27 (NKJV)

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- **STRIVING:** Aggressively following and promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ — Acts 2:42-46; 8:4; 1 Thes. 1:8;
- **TOGETHER:** Doing this in unity with other Christians (“together with one mind”) — Acts 2:42-46
- **FOR THE FAITH:** the doctrine, i.e., teaching of Jesus Christ — Rom 1:16,17; Jude 3,4;

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“STRIVING TOGETHER” (27)



Philippians 1:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ 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. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”

- We cannot control what happens to us, but we can control how we live!
- Does our daily life demonstrate God's rule over our hearts?
- Are we willing to suffer for the faith? or are we ashamed of the gospel?



PHILIPPIANS — JOY NO MATTER WHAT

“Conduct Worthy of The Gospel of Christ”

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1 Thessalonians 2:4–12 (NKJV)

⁴ But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. ⁵ For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God *is* witness. ⁶

Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:4–12 (NKJV)

⁷ But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children. ⁸

So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. ⁹ For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:4–12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; ¹¹ as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children, ¹² that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.