**Going deeper in Philippians 1:27-30**

**“Whatever happens…”**

**INTRODUCTION**

In the passage prior to this the Apostle Paul shared with the church in Philippi his desire to be with them even though he is imprisoned. He has also pointed out the different ways that God has been working in and through his imprisonment. He did that to encourage them and show them that the Lord is at work in the hardships of life. In the following passage he answers the question of how we ought to live in uncertain times and conditions.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

Whatever happens, live your lives in a way that reflects the good news of the Messiah. Don’t let your conduct depend on whether I come and see or hear about it. Stand firmly together in one spirit, fighting alongside of one another united in your trust in the good news. Don’t let anyone or anything frighten you. Their opposition is a sign of their destruction, but you will be saved because of God and what He does for you. Part of what you were given in Christ is not only to trust in Him, but also to suffer hardships for Him and His kingdom since you are having the same struggle you saw I had and now hear I still have.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. How hard is it for you to trust God when you don’t know what is going to happen? What have you learned about trusting God in uncertain times? If you are in a small group share those learnings with one another.

2. What do these verses tell you about living a life that reflects the good news of Jesus? List the things you see in these verses about what that kind of life ought to look like. Which are the hardest for you? If you are in a small group how can you help one another with these?

3. In what ways are you standing together with other believers in one spirit? How might you grow in this area? How can hardships help draw people together? Are there ways you see this happening in our current situation?

3. According to this passage where does salvation come from? Why is that better than if our salvation were dependent on us?

4. Why do you think the Apostle Paul connects trusting in Jesus with suffering in Jesus? What role do you think suffering plays in the Christian life? Why do you think that is?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Pray that the Lord will fill you with the Holy Spirit so you can live today in way that reflects the good news of Jesus Christ.

\*Is there anything you are frightened of? Turn those things over to Him and ask Him to give you His perspective on that.

\*Trust the Lord with any of these things that are causing suffering in your life. Ask Him to give you the ability to help someone else who is going through suffering.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The apostle Paul makes it clear that there is a cost to following Jesus in this imperfect world. He is also convinced that as you and I trust Him there is no reason to be afraid because He will provide what you need in this spiritual battle. Will you rely on Him and trust Him with that this week?