

# Opposition: Attempting to Hinder the Gospel

## Philippians 1:27-2:4

### 1. External Approach 1:27-30

#### a) Loyal to God's Standard vs. 27

The church of Philippi was facing similar opposition as Apostle Paul. Paul challenges them to live in unity of the gospel on the basis of their faith through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit so that their lives would reflect Christ.

#### b) Life Without Fear vs. 28-30

Although opposition can be tough, Paul challenges the church to not be frightened but persevere in suffering for the Lord, as we are to look at suffering as a sign.

- 1) Reveals we are true believers, as only true believers will persevere
- 2) Reminder that because of Christ's victory on that cross, victory will take place against the opposition on the day of judgment.

#### Questions:

- According to this passage, what are some ways unity plays a role in the spread of the gospel? How have you seen disunity hinder the spread of the gospel?
- Think about what it is like to suffer. How might hard times influence disunity among a community? Why might a person be more tempted to selfishness in the midst of personal difficulty?

### 2. Internal Approach 2:1-4

#### a) Like Minded vs. 1-2

Paul is calling for the unity of the body of Christ on the local church level as of first importance; having the same outlook on the world, on the work of God in the world, and one's responsibilities in light of those truths.

#### b) Life of Humility vs. 3-4

Paul is making it clear that humility leads to obedience of each believer to the will of God, as a prideful attitude will confuse one's selfish desires with God's will; to act in Christ love on the relationship they have with one another because of what the Lord has done for them all

#### Questions:

- What role does humility play in being able to strive for the unity of the gospel?
- What struggles in life make it difficult to humbly serve others in the love of Christ? In the midst of difficulty, what are you believing at a heart level that causes you to turn toward self-service, rivalry or conceit?