

Philippians 1:27-30

One Point: God has a purpose for your suffering

1. What's your favorite cereal?

Read v. 27-28

1. What are the privileges of being a citizen of heaven? (John 1:12, Romans 6:6) What are the expectations of being a citizen of heaven? 1 Peter 2:9-11
2. As members of the church, how do we stand firm in one spirit? Ephesians 4:2-4, Romans 12:9-16
3. What do you think about when you think about suffering?
4. When you go through suffering, how do you usually respond?

Read v. 29-30

1. What are some gifts that God gives us? (Ephesians 2:8, James 1:5, Spiritual Gifts) What do you think about when you hear that suffering is a gift from God? Romans 8:18 bw
2. During times of suffering, how do our actions show our confidence of eternal life? How does God use that to bring people to salvation?
3. How can I begin to see the positive fruit that only occurs through suffering?

What I will be talking about

When suffering comes, we have two choices:

1. To be frightened, to be angry, to give up on loving sacrificially
2. To remain confident and joyful, to love others when they don't deserve it, and strive side by side with one another

Depending on how we respond to suffering, it shows whether or not we're a true citizen of heaven. So, we chose to persist in love when we go through difficulty, knowing that God has a purpose for our suffering, and it just might be a sign that leads an opponent to really believing in Christ as a real savior.