

Sermon Review | Sunday, April 26

Press On: Going Against the Tide | Philippians 1:27-30; Acts 16:16-24

Use this review as a means for digging deeper into these verses and growing in your understanding of God's Word this week. Here's a few tips:

- Grab your Study Bible and a pen.
- Print this page out, or write your answers in your own journal.
- Take your time to answer these questions thoughtfully.
- Share your answers with your spouse, family, or a friend.

Begin by reading **Acts 16:16-24**. Remember this event happened in Philippi!

The Philippians were Roman citizens and were entrenched in Roman customs and beliefs that Christianity did not align with.

Why were the owners of the fortune-telling slave girl so upset with Paul and Silas?

What American customs and beliefs today do not align with Scripture?

Now read **Philippians 1:27-30**.

Paul calls for the Philippians to be united together in the church and contend for the gospel in the world.

Why is it so important that we, the church, remain united in our culture today?

What should our attitude be towards unbelievers as we contend for the gospel?

As we stand firm in unity and strive for the gospel we will see ourselves being transformed by God's grace. We will be *courageous instead of fearful (v. 28)*, and will see *opposition as opportunity (v. 29-30)*.

The type of suffering here Paul is referring to is persecution. *In what ways can persecution (in any form) be a blessing?*

Thankfully, we are not physically persecuted in America, but if we really live for Jesus, our faith will be challenged by coworkers, friends, and even lost family members.

What relationships do you currently have where you find yourself "going against the tide" of culture? In what ways can you "strive" for the faith of the gospel with that person?

Pray and thank Jesus for enduring shame and suffering on the cross to save you from eternal shame and suffering. Thank him for opportunities to let your faith be tested and proven by going against the tide of culture. Ask him for help in being a faithful witness to a lost friend or family member. End by praying for the persecuted church around the world.

*For further study: Read **Matthew 5:10-12** and **1 Peter 4:12-13***