

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for September 29-30, 2001**

**Dale Whitehead**

**"Conducting ourselves in a Manner worthy of the Gospel"**

The citizens of heaven should conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ by standing firm in one spirit and one mind.

In order to be described as standing firm we must be striving together for the faith of the gospel.

In order to be described as standing firm we must in no way be alarmed by our opponents (Philippians 1:28).

Christian people need to see the hand of God in their lives. Christian people need to see the hand of God in every aspect of their lives. Christian people need to see the hand of God even in their sufferings.

Suffering did not come into this world because it was good but rather suffering came into this world because of sin and this makes man and not God responsible for the suffering that we see in the world (Genesis 1-3).

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Paul looks upon suffering for the sake of Christ as a trophy to be displayed on the mantel of our faith.

Suffering for the sake of Christ is highlighted because it is the means that God uses to assure us that we are saved (Philippians 1:28).

The word "granted" (CHARIZOMAI) means "to give freely or graciously as a favor."

If Christians fail to appreciate the fact that suffering for Christ is a gracious gift from God they will inevitably be led to make bad decisions when it comes to how they are going to serve Christ.

May God give us the grace to see suffering for the sake of Christ as a gracious gift from God.