

The Epistle to the Philippians - No. 6

PHILIPPIANS 1: 25-30

Confidence in the Will of God (Verses 25-26)

"Confidence" results from persuasion. Paul expects to continue with his Christian work for the advancement of his contacts, because his converts' "advancement" encourages him. He expects to visit Philippi again, so that all may overflow with joy.

How Christians Should Behave in Society (Verse 27)

"Conversation" is citizenship, civilisation, wise interpersonal behaviour in society (see Ephesians 4: 22). Paul expects this of all Christians, such that their behaviour is the same whether or not he is present. The determinant of this is godliness in the total being, that part of us which is conscious of spiritual realities. This requires personal steadfastness and interpersonal helpfulness.

Coping with Society in Contention (Verses 28-30)

Christians should not be frightened by opponents, for their manner of life proves that they are the losers. The "evident token" is behaviour which shows that they are lost. Christian behaviour, in contrast, reveals the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ received by faith. The ability to suffer (a general word) for Him is a charisma ("given"), a gracing from above. "Conflict" has to do with a society in contention, like a football crowd. All that anyone sees or hears of Paul shows that he copes successfully with it through Christ.