

7. WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST: Philippians 1:27-30

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, July 12th, 2020

Theme: “We must live worthy of the gospel of Christ. How to live worthy of the gospel of Christ.”

WE MUST LIVE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL (v.27a)

PHILIPPIANS 1:27a “27 Only (*exclusively*) let your **manner of life** be **worthy** of the gospel of Christ...”

- Paul is saying, “The *ONLY* option for the Christian life is to *BEHAVE AS A CITIZEN WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST*.”
- In Spielberg’s classic *Saving Private Ryan*, just before Captain Miller passes he looks at Private Ryan and says, “James, earn this... earn it.” **Q. What does he mean? A.** He means “Think about the sacrifice made on your behalf & live worthy of it.”
- Now, Paul is not saying “Earn this...earn it” as if we could earn salvation—the gospel is all about Jesus’ earning everything for us! But Paul is saying, “Think about the sacrifice the Lord Jesus made to rescue you from death & hell! Think, & live worthy of it!”
- **1 CORINTHIANS 15:10** “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.” **We must live worthy of the gospel! Q. But how?**

I. WE LIVE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL WHEN WE STAND FIRM TOGETHER (v.27b)

PHILIPPIANS 1:27b “so that whether I come & see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are **standing firm** in **one spirit**, with **one mind** **striving side by side**...”

- Christians are not likened to bears, black rhinos, or leopards, all of which live alone. We are likened to sheep, and sheep go in flocks! The Lord calls us stones in His temple, and stones must be stacked together or the building falls! Likewise He likens us to body parts, and body parts are connected to the body or they die! **Q. Do you see the point, Christian?**
- If you are living essentially as a lone-wolf Christian, you are living unfaithfully. I beg you for God’s glory & your gladness, repent & commit yourself to a local body of believers. Not just any body, but one that preaches the gospel accurately! One that tries their absolute hardest to preach & practice closest to the Bible. One that is committed to fellowship—to *standing firm together!*
- 1. When the siren song of the world calls you to jump ship and drown in the abyss of sin and despair, then and especially then, you need brothers and sisters in Christ to tie you to the mast! And you need to be that brother or sister!
- 2. When those who walk as enemies of the gospel have you in their crosshairs, then and especially then, you need brothers and sisters to stand by your side and say, “Be of good comfort...play the man! (or woman!)” And you need to be that brother or sister!
- 3. When your faith is weak and the temptation to sit down in the trenches is strong, then and especially then, you need brothers and sisters to “[teach] and admonish you in all wisdom and insight” (Col. 3:16). And you need to be that brother or sister!
- We must stand firm together or we will never live worthy of the gospel! **Q.** But what do we do as we stand firm together?

II. WE LIVE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL WHEN WE STAND FIRM TOGETHER... STRIVING SIDE BY SIDE FOR THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL (v.27c)

PHIL. 1:27c “**striving side by side** for the faith of the gospel,”

- **JUDE 3** “Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for **the faith** that was once for all delivered to the saints.” **1 CORINTHIANS 16:13** “Be watchful, **stand firm in the faith**, act like men, be strong.”

III. WE LIVE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL WHEN WE STAND FIRM TOGETHER... NOT FRIGHTENED BY OPPONENTS (v.28)

PHIL.1:28 “& **not frightened** in anything by your **opponents**. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, & that from God.”

- [sign of their destruction] **MATTHEW 21:42-44** 42 ... ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’ ...44 And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.’ [sign of your salvation] **JOHN 15:20** “Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A [slave] is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.”

IV. WE LIVE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL WHEN WE STAND FIRM TOGETHER... SUFFERING FOR JESUS’ SAKE (v.29-30)

PHILIPPIANS 1:29-30 “For it has been **granted** to you that *for the sake of Christ* you should not only believe in him but also suffer **for his sake**, **30** engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.”

- After the Apostle Paul was stoned at Lystra, he “[strengthened] the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that *through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.*” (Acts 14:22)
- **John Rogers:** John Rogers was burned at the stake at Smithfield, England on February 4, 1555. Among those watching who encouraged him were his wife and his own children. What terrible offense had earned him this cruel death? He preached the gospel and refused to bow to Roman Catholic doctrine during Bloody Mary’s reign. According to Foxe’s Book of Martyrs, when the sentence of death was passed, Rogers begged [one of the priests] to let him speak a few words to his wife. [The priest] refused, telling Rogers he was not legally married because he had once been a priest. However, as Rogers walked to the stake, singing psalms, he saw his wife at the roadside, holding their youngest baby, whom he had never met. At the stake, Rogers was offered a pardon if only he would recant his beliefs and return to the Catholic church. He refused. **The fire was lit and Rogers washed his hands in the flames as though he did not feel them.** He was the first of many martyrs in Mary’s reign.
- **Nicholas Ridley & Hugh Latimer,** two Christian men that were burned at the stake for their faith in Jesus in Oxford, England in 1555. Ridley and Latimer were tied side by side, and when the fire was lit at their feet, Latimer said, “*Be of good comfort master Ridley and play the man: we shall this day light such a candle by God’s grace in England, as I trust shall never be put out.*”
- **Q. Do you know what Rogers heard the moment after his death? Do you know what Ridley, Latimer, and Paul heard? A.** They heard, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master” from the mouth of their faithful Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Then perhaps the Apostle John walked up to them & announced for all to hear,** “They have conquered [the enemy] by the blood of the Lamb & by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death” (Rev. 12:11)

Manner of life = πολιτεύομαι (*politeuomai*) (2x)

- MEANING: **behave as a citizen.**

- CF: **Acts 23:1** "Paul said, 'Brothers, I have *lived my life* before God in all good conscience up to this day.'"

Worthy = ἀξιῶς (*axiōs*) (12x)

- MEANING: **suitably, appropriately.**

- CF: **Col. 1:10** "so as to walk in a manner *worthy* of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."