



Transcendent Joy: Learning How to Rejoice No Matter What

Message #6: **How to Live a Worthy Life** (Philippians 1:27-30) – November 27, 2022 - Pastor Jeff

- Paul uses his personal passion for living for Christ (1:12-26) to call the church to live a gospel-worthy life.
 - The greatest detriment to fulfilling the mandate and mission of the church is inconsistent, hypocritical living.
 - The only hope for real deliverance, joy, and purpose is the gospel of Jesus Christ and Paul keeps his focus on this good news (1:5, 7, 12, 16, 27-two times).
 - A gospel-worthy life is a direct result of a gospel-delivered life.
 - Paul will use some vivid imagery (citizens, soldiers, athletes, oppression) to convey the importance and manner of living a gospel-worthy life. Does your life look delivered?
- ❶ **Serve faithfully like a kingdom citizen** (1:27a: *“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ”*)
- Paul narrows the option of every believer by calling us to a *“monos”* life (one and only one) which is focused a gospel-worthy lifestyle.
 - The words *“conduct yourselves”* is our word for politics and their word for citizen. He’s calling us to act like a kingdom citizen (Col. 1:13) just as those in the free-state Philippi were called to live for the good of all society.
 - Good citizens of Jesus Christ hone King Jesus (1 Tim. 6:15), prioritize and obey His laws (Matt. 6:33) and appreciate the care of the gospel that delivers and protects.
- ❷ **Stand firmly like a good soldier** (1:27b: *“standing firm in one spirit”*)
- The words *“standing firm”* project the image of a soldier who is always ready for the conflict just as we have been called to be ready for the good fight.
 - Our posture as a good soldier is to stand firm in our common faith around the gospel (1 Cor. 16:13; Phil. 4:1; 1 Thess. 3:8; 2 Thess. 2:15) and to stand firm in our common fight (Eph. 6:11-13). We are given useful and sufficient tools for the battle (Eph. 6:17: *“the sword of the Spirit, which is God’s Word”*; Matt. 26:41: *“Keep watching and praying...”*; Jms 4:7: *“submit therefore to God, resist the Devil”*; 1 Pet. 5:9: *“knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren”*)
- ❸ **Strive fervently like a team-oriented athlete** (1:27b: *“striving together for the faith of the gospel”*)
- Now Paul uses the imagery of an athlete that is struggling side-by-side with teammates who are competing together for the victory. Being an unselfish team player is the call of every believer.
 - *“Striving together”* requires a team effort that recognizes the important role of each gospel player. It also requires a winning attitude (*“for the faith of the gospel”*; 1 Cor. 9:24)
 - Winning will always include facing the challenges of the opposition who does not want us to win with the power and offense of the gospel message.

④ Suffer fearlessly like the unfairly persecuted (1:28-20)

- The gospel-worthy life will be unjustly opposed and resisted by gospel enemies. The gospel is a message that proclaims the reality of personal sin and its consequence while offering the only eternal solution.
- As usual, Paul presents the countercultural truth by sharing two realities about suffering:
 - 1) Suffering is a blessing (v. 28): We have nothing to fear or reason to run (“*in no way alarmed by your opponents*”) because we know the opposition is a confirmation of whose side we are on. Opposition is a sign of “*destruction for them*” (the opposition will lose) and a “*salvation for you*”.
 - 2) Suffering is a benefit (v. 29-30): Not only can we expect to suffer from those who oppose the gospel, but suffering is a gift from God (notice “*it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake*”)

*See the general resources page on our website (click About, then General Resources (<https://www.ccfw.org/generalresources>) then “[The Benefits and Blessings of Suffering](#)”