

LIFE DURING LOCKDOWN #4
“The Worthy Life”
Philippians 1:27-30

Paul has informed the Philippians that the gospel is still advancing through him despite his situation in prison. He is in chains, but the gospel is free as a bird. Now he is now going to address some concerns that he has about how the Philippians can advance the gospel in their city. Every church should rally around the objective of advancing the gospel in their location. To be optimally effective in reaching our city for Christ believers need to live what Paul calls the “worthy life.” The question is what is the worthy life? What does the worthy life look like that believers should strive for? Today’s lesson will provide us insights about how our lifestyle can advance the gospel and bring honor to the Lord Jesus.

#1. LIVING THE WORTHY LIFE FOR CHRIST INVOLVES LIVING AS A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN, v. 27a (NLT)

- A. Roman citizenship was highly valued
- B. A believer’s conduct should reflect his dual citizenship, 3:19-20
- C. A believer’s conduct should be consistent with his beliefs
- D. A believer will display of evidence of conversion to the gospel, Eph 4:1-2
- E. A believer’s worthy life involves sanctification, 2:12-13

#2. LIVING THE WORTHY LIFE FOR CHRIST INVOLVES UNITING TOGETHER TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL, v. 27b

- A. Believers should stand firm (*Gr. steko*) in one spirit (or Holy Spirit), Eph 4:1-3
- B. Believers should contend (*Gr. sunathleo*) as one man
- C. Believers should contend for the gospel, Jude 3

#3. LIVING THE WORTHY LIFE FOR CHRIST INVOLVES MANAGING OPPOSITION TO THE GOSPEL, v. 28

- A. Do not fear those who oppose you, Mat 10:28
- B. Opponents to the gospel will be destroyed, 2 Thess 1:4-10
- C. Opposition is proof that you will be saved, John 15:20, 2 Tim 3:12

#4. LIVING THE WORTHY LIFE FOR CHRIST INVOLVES SUFFERING FOR HIM, vv. 29-30

- A. It is graciously granted to believe in Christ, v. 29, Eph 2:8-9
 - B. It is graciously granted to suffer for Christ, v. 30, 3:10
 - C. They are going through the same struggles (*Gr. agon*) as Paul, v. 30
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Today’s Scripture
Philippians 1:27-30

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one Spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel ²⁸without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved--and that by God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

(NLT) Philippians 1:27: But whatever happens to me, you must live in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ, as citizens of heaven. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing side by side, fighting together for the Good News.

Philippians 3:20-21: But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by

the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Jude 1:3: Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

Ephesians 4:1-3: As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

(NLT) Philippians 1:29: For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.

Philippians 3:10-11: I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Galatians 6:17: Finally, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

Acts 9:16: I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#1. What does it mean to conduct yourself in a manner that is worthy of the gospel?

#2. What does it mean for a Christians to have dual citizenship?

#3. Since our permanent home is in heaven, how should we view our life on this earth? (1 Peter 2:10-11, 1 John 2:15-17)

#4. Why is it important for Christians to be unified in advancing the gospel?

#5. Discuss the military nuances behind the word “stand firm” in the Greek language.

#6. Do you think that the spirit refers to the Holy Spirit or the human spirit?

#7. Discuss the opposition that Christians face in today’s world to the gospel.

#8. For what reason(s) should believers not fear opposition to the gospel?

#9. What does it mean to suffer for the gospel?

#10. Do you feel that American Christianity is accurately teaching this aspect of the gospel? Why or why not?

#11. In what way(s) is suffering for the gospel to be considered a gift?

#12. What is your big takeaway from this teaching?