

THE WORTHY WALK

(Philippians 1:27-30)

Series: "Philippians: The Joyful Letter" (Part 9)

...Warren Wiersbe wrote, "The Christian life is not a playground. We are sons in the family, enjoying the fellowship of the Gospel; we are servants sharing in the furtherance of the Gospel, but we are also soldiers defending the faith of the Gospel. And the believer can have the joy of the Holy Spirit even in the midst of battle."

...But how can we do it? How can the Lord Jesus use each of us to advance the Gospel in the face of Satanic opposition? Is it even possible for us to advance the Gospel against the world, the flesh, and the Devil?

...Paul has just finished his introductory remarks in verses 1-26 of this letter, and now begins his first exhortation, earnestly calling them (and us) to conduct their lives in a manner appropriate to the Gospel of Christ. He tells that we ought to live as citizens of heaven here in this foreign land.

TWO INGREDIENTS NECESSARY FOR US TO LIVE WORTHILY AS CITIZENS OF HEAVEN EVEN WHILE FACING OPPOSITION.

...Because of who we are and what God has done for us in Christ, conduct yourself as God's sons and daughters.

I. Unity Is Essential For Us To Advance The Faith Of The Gospel. (v.27)

...We are "citizens of heaven." Jesus taught that though we are "In the world we are not of the world."

We are foreigners living in a strange land and who are moving (soon) into a far better place.

...Such an expression would powerfully touch those in the Philippi church. They were so proud of their Roman citizenship, all the while living in modern day Greece. They are to be united in 2 ways:

A. Standing firm in one spirit, one soul. This is a unity of consistency.

1. Whether Paul would be released or not, they were to live lives pleasing to the Lord.

2. We as Christians are "To keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

...We must never tear down those who disagree with us. United in heart.

3. Standing firm reminds each of us that we are responsible for our spiritual growth.

B. Standing in unity as a team is how we as a church are to advance "The faith of the Gospel."

1. Paul tells us that we are to be "Striving side by side." The world of athletics...

...This word in the original language is "contending together." "Athletics" "Teamwork." It is the idea of a joint-effort by a team.

2. Our church is a team. Each one of us has a part to do in the work of advancing the faith.

There is only one goal here: To honor Christ and do His will." If we work together, we can reach the goal, win the prize and glory the Lord.

3. There will be joy in our lives, even as we battle the enemy, if we live for Christ and His Gospel, and practice Christian teamwork. United in action.

...But more is needed than unity, for in the face of opposition, we could all "advance to the rear." So...

II. Courage Is Needed As We Advance The Gospel In This Foreign Place. (vv.28-30)

A. Paul told: Don't be terrified by those who oppose us. (v.28) Like a horse frightened by a snake...

1. Remember we are in a battle for the souls of men and women. We often forget this. Satan will oppose us through others. Don't be surprised. Remember Jesus...

2. The believers had enemies who worked against them. They were not inside the church, but outside. They were probably the hostile Jews he mentioned in Philippians 3:2-6.

B. This God-given courage in the midst of enemies will be a sign (proof) of two things:

1. It is a sign to heaven's enemies of their ultimate destruction.

...It means all those apart from Christ will endure forever in a state of destruction.

2. It is also a sign (proof) of our salvation. By standing courageously firm in the face of difficulty is proof that God has saved us. This is His work in us, it is not of us.
- C. This God-given courage is needed to face the suffering that the Lord may bring our way.
1. Christians are privileged to have the gifts of saving faith and suffering.
...Saving faith, that caused you to believe the Gospel is God's gift to you. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
...We are told that suffering is also a "gift" from God. Most of us don't think so.
 2. At times, we as Christians are called upon to suffer for Him. What a privilege!
 3. Paul reminded them of his suffering, both when their church began, and currently in a Roman prison. He was not Caesar's prisoner; he was "The prisoner of the Lord Jesus".

SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN YOUR LIFE?

1. If you know Christ the Lord as your Savior, you have the serious responsibility of conducting your life, your daily life, as a citizen of heaven. This means you must apply yourself to both know the Word and live it out. You don't do this to be accepted by the Lord, but rather because of all He has done for you...your desire should be to please Him in all you do.
2. We as a church are given to one thing, to glorify Christ by making disciples. This is the Great Commission. This means we must be a united team in heart and effort in advancing the work. You are on the team. Are you even in the game? How are you doing? What are you doing to help in this the greatest of all works?
3. It is a law of physics, when you live for Jesus you will suffer. Make sure your suffering is really because of Jesus and not because you are offensive. If it is due to Jesus then rejoice and count it a privilege to suffer on His behalf. Such suffering will advance the work, and produce real Christ-like change in your life.
4. If you do not know Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you cannot live a life that pleases Him. You are born a sinner, and lost. Hell is your destination unless you come to receive Jesus as your sin substitute. He died as Son of God to pay the only price that will satisfy God's holy wrath that hangs over you. Today, pray, Lord Jesus be merciful to me, a sinner, I receive you as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for dying for me.