

Philippians: Only Let Your Manner Be Worthy | Philippians 1:27-30

1. **THINK:** How can anything we do be worthy when all has been given to us by grace? What does Paul mean by that? What are some things you can think of that would describe 'letting your manner of life being worthy of the Gospel'? What are some things you know would not make that list? **DO:** Living a life worthy of the Gospel can only be done if the Gospel is absolutely central in our lives. Prayerfully contemplate if the Gospel, whether in sorrow, joy, failure, success, struggle, ease or whatever circumstance, is absolutely central in your life? How do you know it is central? Determine what evidences are in your life that proves the Gospel is central.

2. **THINK:** What is Paul after in the lives of the Philippians when he instructs them whether he is present or away, that they be standing in one spirit, in one mind, striving side by side for the gospel? **DO:** Where are you not striving side by side with other believers for the gospel? Are there believers in your neighborhood that you strive against? Are there believers in your family or workplace that you strive against? Who are they? Determine a plan to reconcile so that nothing would divide you and you can work together for the sake of the Gospel? What plan would you generate that peace with other believers is of utmost priority and makes the stakes of the Gospel even greater?

3. **THINK:** What does it feel like every month to have to pay for mortgage, rent, car expenses, medical expenses, food, clothing, utilities, insurance and many other expenses? Think if what it would be like to have every one of these expenses paid for every month for the rest of your life? **DO:** Every one of your sin expenses has been paid....every single one of them if you have placed your faith in Christ. How would you feel if all your monetary expenses had been paid? Make a list of what your life would look like. What words would describe it and the emotion attached to that payment? If material things being paid bring that kind of satisfaction, describe how your sin expenses being paid eternally causes reaction? Talk about how much more we should find joy in that than mere material, daily needs being paid for.

4. **THINK:** How do you go about working on not being frightened because of opponents to the Gospel? What are some things you do to help with that? Is it apologetics training? Is it more theological experience? Is it more service? What really is helpful when it comes to fighting fear here? **DO:** Talk through what these variables might add to lessening fear when it comes to gospel-speaking:
 - a. A more intimate prayer life and more of it so that Christ becomes more to you

- b. Ridding your life of selfish ambition and working hard at becoming nothing in your own eyes so Christ becomes everything
 - c. Finding ways to bless others instead of seeking ways to be blessed
 - d. Developing a life that is lived in a manner worthy of the Gospel (not perfect, but marked with holiness, repentance and always moving toward Jesus)
 - e. Loving Christ more in words, deeds, affections and longing
 - f. More focus on the Gospel in everyday life...how does the truth of the Gospel save you every day?
 - g. Knowing why you need the Gospel every moment by moment.
 - h. Studying and focusing not on the threats of opponents, but the promises of the Creator
 - i. Scripture memory
 - j. Daily, planned, committed time devoted to spending with Jesus
 - k. Renewing your mind with truth from the Scriptures, not filth from the world
 - l. Embracing suffering for his sake so that your struggle makes much of Christ
 - m. Embracing trials in your life for His glory instead of seeking to rid your life of them
5. **THINK:** Paul is really into suffering it seems. Verse 29, 30 says: "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, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have." Why is suffering so connected to life in Christ? **DO:** Discuss what Pastor Dale said: suffering is not the focus, but rather, loving righteousness and hating wickedness. Explain this and how affection for righteousness and hatred for wickedness prepares us and enables us when suffering comes.