

Living Worthy of the Gospel of Christ

Philippians 1:27-30

Introduction

One way Satan works to keep us from obeying Christ is by telling us that God's commands are impossible to obey. And Paul knows that the commands he's going to give in verses 27-28 could feel impossible. That's why Paul spends the first part of chapter 1 helping us see that God will always enable us to obey.

He does this in verses 3-8 by thanking God for helping them to obey in the past, and in verses 9-11 by praying that God will help them obey in the future. Then in verses 12-26 he gives examples of how God has enabled Paul to obey. And all of this is to show that God will help them obey the difficult commands found in verses 27-28.

What does it mean to live in a way that is worthy of the gospel of Christ? (27)

Being saved means welcoming Jesus Christ into your life as Savior, Friend, Forgiver, Guide, Protector, Resurrector. So when you have Christ you have the supreme treasure of the universe. And living worthy of Christ means living in a way that displays his worth.

How does Paul want us to display the worth of Christ? (27-28)

It's by joining together to advance the gospel without fear.

But that would not have been easy because in that culture advancing the gospel could bring beatings, imprisonment, even death.

So that raises another question –

How can we do this without fear? (28-30)

We need not fear, because unless they are saved, those who cause you to suffer will be destroyed (27-28).

We need not fear, because you are suffering is a sign of your salvation (27-28).

We need not fear, because your suffering is a gracious gift from God (29).



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Do you agree that it's easy to display the worth of something we love? Remember the example of the diamond, and of the Tesla. Why or why not?

On a scale of 1 (low) and 10 (high) how much do you see, and feel, that Jesus Christ has supreme worth?

The way Paul calls us to display Christ's worth is by joining together to advance the gospel without fear. Which of those are you strongest in (joining together? Advancing the gospel? Without fear?)? Which of those are you weakest in?

What are some settings in which fear has caused you to pull back from standing firm and advancing the gospel?

Which of Paul's three reasons was most powerful for you as a way to overcome fear?

Did you have any questions from Sunday's teaching?

What was the Holy Spirit stirring in your heart from this passage?

