

Living Worthy of The Gospel (Phil. 1:27-29)

I. LIVING WORTHY

- A. Philippians 1:27-29 is a challenge for us to live in a way that glorifies Christ no matter what we do in life. (v. 27)—*Conduct [politeuo] means to exercise citizenship*. The gospel regulates how we are to live our life out in this world.

²⁷Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel. (Phil. 1:27)

- B. Paul used three expressions to describe our unity of purpose in serving Christ in Christian community. —*In one spirit, with one mind, striving together*. (v.27) The word *striving* means to *wrestle* together, not in opposition of one another, but in unity against the enemy forces of the gospel.

For our citizenship is in heaven from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Phil 3:20)

II. SUFFERING FOR CHRIST

- C. Next, Paul describes the inevitability of suffering for Christ (v.29). We are called to *believe* – [To have faith] and to *suffer* – [To experience a painful sensation].

²⁹For to you it has been granted –[To do a favor] on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake (v.29)

- D. We live in a fallen world where serving Christ is not foremost on peoples minds. In fact, sometimes we are exposed to outright hostility towards Christ and the gospel. Persecution was a regular part of conditions in the early church. The beauty and bright righteousness that Jesus possesses is what He imparts to His people in exchange for the suffering we may go through (Isa. 61:3; 62:1). We proclaim the compelling beauty of righteousness with its liberty.

³...to give them beauty for ashes...they may be called trees of righteousness... (Isa. 61:3)

¹For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace...until her righteousness goes forth as brightness... (Isa. 62:1)

- E. ***Granted*** – To do a favor – God will allow “suffering” to be part of our Christian experience to work His purpose in us, but also to display to the world that Jesus Christ is worthy to be lived for.

¹Word Wealth: Suffer, [pascho] Compare passion, passive, Pathos: Being acted upon in a certain way, to experience ill treatment, roughness, violence ,or outrage, to endure suffering, and to undergo evils from without. Pascho asks the painful question, “What is happening to me?”

¹ New Spirit-filled Life Bible, Acts 17:3 Notes, Page 1523

III. COUNT IT ALL JOY

- F. ***Count it all joy:*** The Apostle Peter encourages us to “***Rejoice***” regardless of what comes our way in life. We cannot afford to allow ourselves to get down and discourages and want to give up.

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory” (1Pet. 1:6-8).

- G. ***Genuineness:*** Proving—[That which is proved and tested].

- H. ***Being much more precious than gold:*** The worth of going through the fiery trials is costly and precious. It yields eternal fruit to the glory of God.

- I. ***Joy inexpressible:*** *Unspeakable Joy* – We are promised an inner joy that is hard to define (express in words) when we pass the test of enduring hardship for the sake of Christ.