

Philippians 1:27
What is the Gospel? Living a Life Worthy of the Gospel
January 3, 2010
Sermon Outline

Notes

I. Introduction

Philippians 1:27

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are *standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel...*

“It’s interesting how little the New Testament talks about church growth, and how often it talks about ‘gospel growth’ or the increase of the ‘word’. The focus is on the progress of the Spirit-backed word of God as it makes its way in the world, according to God’s plan.” (*The Trellis and the Vine*, p. 37)

Key Idea

The worthy Christian life is given by God, is marked by faith in Christ, a single-minded devotion to him and an eagerness to maintain the unity of the Spirit all for the progress of the gospel.

II. Divine Fruit: A Prayer Filled Life

Colossians 1:9-14

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, *we have not ceased to pray for you*, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to *walk in a manner worthy of the Lord*, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ *May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might*, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹² giving thanks to **the Father, who has qualified you** to share in the inheritance of the

saints in light. ¹³ **He** has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- A. A Worthy Life Comes to Us from Above
- B. A Worthy Life Is Marked by Prayer

“It seems that Jesus often brings about events in our lives that will reveal our insufficiency so that we might find Him. For as long as we pridefully think we can help ourselves (even a little), He remains hidden. But take note, it is by the grace of God we are what we are, which means that even the very humility needed to recognize the truth and excellency of Jesus does not come naturally. It is a gift of grace.” (*To Cut off the Sinner from All Hope in Himself* by John Hendryx)

III. For the Faith of the Gospel

Matthew 10:37-39

³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not *worthy* of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not *worthy* of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not *worthy* of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

- A. Confess Your Sin
- B. Rest in the Life, Death and Resurrection of Christ

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how **will he not also** *with him* graciously give us all things?

- C. Aim for Gospel Growth
 - 1. In the world (Matt. 28:18-20)
 - 2. In each other

IV. Striving Side by Side

Ephesians 4:1-3, 14-16 (Cf. Heb. 3:12-13; 10:24-25)

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to *walk in a manner worthy* of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ *eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

...⁷ But **grace was given to each one of us** according to the measure of Christ's gift. ...¹⁴ **so that** we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to *grow up* in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, *makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

V. Gospel Centered Living and Thinking

- A. Gospel Growth Is Our Goal
- B. We Have Two Primary Tools:
 - 1. Speaking the truth in love
 - 2. Prayer

“Simply by virtue of being a disciple of Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit of the new covenant, all Christians have the privilege, joy and responsibility of being involved in the work God is doing in our world, the 'work of the Lord'. And the fundamental way we do this is by speaking the truth of God to other people in dependence on the Holy Spirit.” (*The Trellis and the Vine*, p. 49)