

Philippians 1:27-30

We have been looking at the letter of Philippians. As this first chapter continues to unfold before us, I think we can see clearly the numerous ways by which the gospel advances.

There are 6 key ways that the gospel advances that stand out in this first chapter that we have been looking at.

The gospel advances through...

I. Partnerships v1-11

II. Persecution v12-14

III. Preaching v15-18

IV. Prizing Christ v19-26

A. To Live is Christ v21a

1. Briefly...in the world, the church, the home, and the individual, Christ is the thread!
2. Romans 12:1 *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

B. To Die is Gain v21b

1. When is dying such gain, that it is something we no longer dread, but actually “desire?”
2. When you love heaven more than earth, Jesus more than anyone, and holiness more than life itself.

V. Pure Conduct v27-28

A. Standing Firm

1. 1 Corinthians 16:13 *Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*
2. Ephesians 6:10-17
3. 1 Peter 5:8-9 *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world*

B. Standing Together

1. Ephesians 4:1-3
2. We often focus on preserving doctrine, truth, and accurate-theology and methodology
3. It is also important that we consider our obligation to preserve unity by being
 - a. Humble
 - b. Gentle
 - c. Patient
 - d. Bearing with one another in love.
4. We are to have a protective instinct that so values and desires unity that our own responses to difficult conversations, disagreements, or situations are governed by this higher calling and shared value of unity.

C. Striving Together

- a. For what? For the faith of the gospel.
- b. This is the goal...to get the gospel to the ends of the earth...don't get sidetracked from this!!
- c. If a church is made up of people standing firm against the enemy, standing shoulder to shoulder in the world, and striving together for the furtherance of the Kingdom...the gospel will advance!

VI. Pain and Suffering v29-30

A. Our Sufferings are Christ's

1. The church is the body of Christ: and the Head suffers with his members.
2. Acts 9:4-5 *And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.*
3. Their sufferings were those of Christ, for Christ is identified with all His people.

B. Christ's Sufferings are Our's

1. So, Christ is associated with us, in our suffering. At the same time, since we are associated with Christ, we enter into His sufferings...as his body suffers globally
2. 2 Cor 1:5 *For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.*

C. Suffering for Christ is honorable

1. It seems their suffering was almost a badge of honor...to you it has been granted.
2. When we suffer we have opportunity to glorify God, exalt Christ, and advance the KOG on earth.
3. It is those who suffered well that have left the largest impact on me...not those who are healed.
4. Genesis 39:21-22
 - a. Joseph was successful. The Lord was with him. Everything He did was blessed....yet he found himself in prison for a righteous act.
 - b. Just because the Lord is with you doesn't mean no suffering....and just because you are suffering doesn't mean he isn't using you.
 - c. In fact, sometimes suffering is a sign he is using you...and a way he uses you.

Home Group Discussion Questions

1. Take some time to review the sermon notes from Sunday.
 2. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn't make sense to you? Discuss it with the group.
 3. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss
 4. How do you plan to apply this to your life? For example, "In response to this sermon, I will _____"
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