

REJOICE

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PHILIPPIANS

MESSAGE: PAT SMITH

MUSIC: RITA BAIRD

DATE: JANUARY 26TH, 2025

THE HIGH CALLING OF A WORTHY LIFE

Philippians 1:27-30

NOTES:

Our lives as Christians are meant...

1. ...to reflect our citizenship in God's kingdom.

Phil 1:27a *Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,*

- a. "Only" gives the unique marks of the Christian life are what follow in these verses.
- b. "Manner of life" has the root "politeia" in Greek. It is living within a political system or living as a citizen with the rights and obligations associated with it.

Eph. 4:1 *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.*

- c. The gospel is our statement of citizenship. It provides the standard we are to live up to as citizens reflected in Jesus' own words.

Mat 10:38 *And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.*

2. ...to be fearless and committed to defend and advance the gospel.

Phil 1:27b *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, 28a and not frightened in anything by your opponents.*

- a. "standing firm" is a defensive stance of what we are committed to believe.
- b. "striving side by side" is moving forward together for one cause
- c. "not frightened" is not letting ourselves become intimidated or terrified.

What do we have to fear if: *"To live is Christ and to die is gain."* (Phil 1:21)

- d. We live our lives in community, centered around the good news.

3. ...to convict the unbeliever and affirm the believer of their position in Christ.

Phil 1:28b *This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.*

1Pet. 2:7 *So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*

Christ's invitation to salvation is also an invitation to suffering.

Phil 1:29 *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, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*

Review/Discuss/Apply:

- 1) Am I able to clearly share the gospel? Am I willing to share the gospel? Do I **PREPARE** and **MAKE PLANS** to share the gospel? What are some things that cause fear to stir in my heart? Pray for help in these areas. Ask others to pray for this as well.
- 2) If my whole life is to be oriented towards Christ, with Him in the center, what changes or sacrifices need to be made in my life and my family's life?
- 3) What steps (or additional steps) might I need to take to live my life in unity (and community) with other believers?

SONGS

*JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE
NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD
BE THOU MY VISION (O GOD)
THIS IS AMAZING GRACE*

BUDGET

Giving Last Week: \$24,478.46
Weekly Need: \$39,480.00

YTD Giving: \$101,909.21
YTD General Need: \$118,440.00

Altamont Expansion Fund (1/16/25): \$205,270.11

COMMUNICATION & GIVING

Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please pass the envelopes to the ushers or deposit them in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!

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