

# PHILIPPIANS

## JESUS OUR JOY

### A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of November 22, 2020

#### Life Worthy of the Gospel

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Philippians 1:27-28](#)

"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel" (27). There is one word in Greek behind "only let your manner of life": *politeuomai*. You hear politics. *Poli*: city, state. This would have been particularly important to the Philippians.

This verb means to live as a good citizen; to fulfill, carry out civic duty. So "let your manner of life" means "live as a citizen." Carry out your civic duty. And the question, Civic duty of Philippi, or of heaven? Bruce Winter argues Philippi. Is the citizenship in Paul's view in heaven not in Philippi, the Roman city-state? [Philippians 3:20](#) says our *citizenship* (related word), "is in heaven. And from it, we await the savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." So, I think at the root of Paul's mind is citizenship in heaven because he says that.

Christ is of infinite worth. Live like He is. Our king is not Caesar, and our treasure is not of this world. So, this enables us to truly be "good citizens" of this world, this country.

What does this mean? Specifically, it means unity and courage. "I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." ([Philippians 4:2-6](#))

Humility and fearlessness. "I'm going to produce a sign with the suffering and the faith as they collide. When the threat of suffering collides with the gift of faith, what's born? Fearlessness. The sign is lifted up and the enemies can see it. And persevering love and unity. Few things start to tear our church, our families, our marriages apart like suffering. When life gets hard, unity gets hard, love gets harder. And God is giving them faith that God will meet every need according to his riches and glory in Christ Jesus. So humble love and fearlessness are the signs that are lifted up. Jesus told us to stand with courage. But Gospel courage is not the bravado of this anxious age. In fact, the call to courage is a call to be crucified." (*Russell Moore*)

"The Bible calls on us to develop a theological imagination within which we can see the world as a community and not a collection of hostilities... by giving us the vision of a person who can heal our wounds and dismantle our hostilities." (*Esau McCauley*)

O God of earth and altar,  
bow down and hear our cry,  
our earthly rulers falter,  
our people drift and die;  
the walls of gold entomb us,  
the swords of scorn divide,  
take not thy thunder from us,  
but take away our pride.

Tie in a living tether  
the prince and priest and thrall,  
bind all our lives together,  
smite us and save us all;  
in ire and exultation  
afire with faith, and free,  
lift up a living church,  
a single sword to thee.  
(G.K. Chesterton)

...From all that terror teaches,  
from lies of tongue and pen,  
from all the easy speeches  
that comfort cruel men,  
from sale and profanation  
of honour and the sword,  
from sleep and from damnation,  
deliver us, good Lord!

#### For Further Discussion: [Philippians 1:27-28](#)

<sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

- When are you **tempted** to be **discouraged** or **afraid** as a follower of Christ?
- For Paul, **what qualities** mark a "**manner of life worthy of the Gospel of Christ**"?
- When Paul uses the word "**manner**" (*politeuo*), he communicates, "*let your fulfillment of duties as citizens of God's Kingdom and members of Christ's partnership be worthy of that citizenship*". Do you think about yourself and the church as **aliens in this world**? As **citizens of another Kingdom**? What is one way that this remarkable truth **impacts your manner of life**?
- Paul encourages steadfast faith whether he is present with the Philippians, or absent (27). During this pandemic, each of us have experienced some loss of contact with those who encourage us in the faith. What must one **believe to be steadfast in following Jesus**, even when those who encourage us are no longer near?
- What **impact** does Paul expect witnessing this kind of life will have **on other believers**?
- What **impact** does Paul expect witnessing this kind of life will have **on the opponents** of the Philippian church?
- How can the church **practice unity of spirit** and **strive side by side** for the faith of the gospel today?
- Paul encourages the Philippians to be **fearless** and **expect opposition**. Who or what are **the opponents of the church** today? What would it look like to **not be frightened** when opposed?

- **Pray together** in light of this week's passage. Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen the Church that we might walk in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Pray for the God to unify us, even as we are one in Christ. Pray for courage to follow Jesus, and for the Lord to use that witness for His Kingdom purposes.

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