

The Life We Live
Philippians 1:27-30

Intro:

We have spent quite a few weeks now in the book of Philippians, and today we finally get to what most commentators consider to be the thesis of the book of Philippians. However, if you are familiar with Paul's writings, you may consider this to be the thesis of all of his writings.

Paul has a consistent view of Christian living that is holistic, that is, Christ permeates every area of our entire life! He isn't just our God on Sunday, or when we are in company with other believers. Jesus is the Lord of our entire life; our thoughts, our actions, our beliefs, our attitudes, when we are alone, when we are in public, when we are angry, when we are elated! "The Life we Live" is about Jesus. Paul has already set us up that to be alive is to serve Jesus (to live is Christ). In Romans and in Galatians, he challenged us to live all of your life led by the Spirit. So, the life we live is about Jesus and his Lordship.

This is the goal of our ministry, that we see holistic commitment to the Gospel of Jesus, to the Kingdom of God that Jesus preached! We can't be the happening place with a lot of people! While that's fine and fun, we need to be committed to serving Jesus and his Kingdom in every area of our lives! How do we commit to Christ in areas where we struggle? Where is Jesus present in us? Where is Jesus NOT present in us?

Text:

Philippians 1:27-30

I. Let your manner of life...

*****"Only" may be better rendered as "Whatever happens."
This is more inclusive and in light of his previous writings
about suffering, persecution, temptation, etc.**

- **There is a measure of personal responsibility implicit here. "YOU Let..."**
 - **True of scripture – We have a responsibility to obedience and honoring God and are responsible over our choices.**
 - **Deut 30 – Obey the commandments, Choose life**
 - **Matt 19 – Rich young ruler had opportunity to choose**
- **This is a statement of inclusive totality – that is, Paul is referring to ALL OF YOUR LIFE, not just parts of it. Let the manner of your WHOLE life.**
- **This statement from Paul is about his admonishing that we adhere to the very highest standard as our pattern of living and believing! Again, Paul repeatedly affirmed the idea of process, journey, Spirit-led living, etc. Not Crisis ("I got saved, I'm good for life"), but Process ("I'm justified by Grace and walking out my salvation day by day")**
- **Paul goes on in this section to further define how this works out in real time**
 - **1. It's Communal**
 - **2. It's Personal**
 - **"So that whether I'm present or absent" – indicates a push for personal maturity, not based on the presence of Spiritually mature people, pastors, leaders, etc.**
 - **Standing Firm**
 - **In one Spirit**

- **With One Mind**
- **Striving together for faith in the Gospel**
 - **Matt 4 – Gospel of the Kingdom of God**
- **Not frightened by your opponents...**
 - **Again, this is about maturity – Not being tossed about by every wind of doctrine**
- **Again, remember that these admonishments are communal and personal – both/and.**

II. Worthy of the Gospel

*****This is a precarious statement – it's not our normal way of talking: "Live worthy of _____" is weird language.**

****What does it mean? What does it mean to LIVE LIFE (holistic) in a way that brings worth to the Gospel of Jesus?**

*****In my opinion, it's about living in such a way that shows the impact and worth of Jesus in your life, again – communally and personally.**

***What good are we as a community if it is not evident that we find the work of Jesus worthy? And something to base our community life upon?**

*** In the same way, what good are we individually if it is not evident that we find the work of Jesus worthy, and something to base our whole life upon? Not just evident to others, but evident to ourselves?**

*****Paul said that if the Gospel isn't true, if Jesus didn't ascend from the grave, if Jesus isn't God, then let's just live a self-indulgent life, given to the flesh and not concerned with the eternal!**

****Our life must bring honor to Jesus, not for the sake of keeping rules and having the good outweigh the bad in the end, but because he is worth it!**

So, what does this manner of life look like? It is a "manner" that just obeys the rules? Or a manner that gives the proper lip

service? I want to remind you that Jesus addressed these kind of people all throughout his ministry, and usually not too favorably.

***OK, remember that this is both communally and it is privately:**

1. We understand what God has made available:

PRIVILEGES

- a. Salvation by grace thru faith, not thru works**
- b. Authority over the enemy, sin**
- c. Access to God thru prayer (veil rent)**
- d. Members of the body of Christ**
- e. Heirs of eternal glory,**
- f. Heirs of the promise given to Abraham**

2. We commit our hearts to his expectations: ATTITUDES

- a. Humility**
- b. Servitude**
- c. Graciousness**
- d. Faithfulness**
- e. Patience**
- f. Endurance**
- g. Gratitude**
- h. Honoring others above ourselves**
- i. Respect**
- j. Fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace...**

3. We make efforts to be a part of his Kingdom: ACTIONS

- a. Benevolence/ Giving**
- b. Servitude**
- c. Prayer**
- d. Mission**
- e. Worship**
- f. Suffering**

*****While all of these are Privileges, Attitudes, and Actions that we can attain to, it is important that we identify what isn't worthy of the Gospel of Jesus:**

(I'm not usually one to preach on sin, but it's very relevant here)

a. Lying, gossip, slander, stealing, cheating, adultery, sexual immorality, killing (literally and with words), etc.