

A LIFE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL

WHAT THAT LIFE IS BASED ON ...

WHAT THAT LIFE LOOKS LIKE ...

HOW WE LIVE THAT LIFE...



I THEREFORE, A PRISONER FOR THE LORD, URGE YOU TO WALK IN A MANNER
WORTHY OF THE CALLING TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED.

(EPHESIANS 4:1 ESV)

WHAT THAT LIFE IS BASED ON ...

1. The prerequisite to a life worthy of the gospel is a life based on Christ and his gospel, 1:21-26.

- (Philippians 1:21–26 ESV) **For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.** 22 If I am to live in the flesh, **that means fruitful labor** for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. 24 **But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.** 25 **Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all,** for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

A. To live is Christ, to die is to profit even more.

B. A life surrendered to Christ is a life of fruitful labor.

- (John 15:5 ESV) I am the vine; you are the branches. **Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**
- C. The decision to continue on or be with Christ may be difficult but we must know that ultimately we do not make that decision.
- D. Those who live worthy of the gospel will be convinced of the necessity to continue in doing what is best for those around him.

2. An Imperative Issued: Our priority must be to live in a manner worthy of the gospel, 1:27a.

An imperative is something that is absolutely essential, urgent, or demands immediate attention.

- (Philippians 1:27a ESV) **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 ...

A. The gospel is the gospel of Jesus Christ—clearly the gospel that Paul preached.

- (Galatians 1:11–12 ESV) For I would have you know, brothers, **that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.** 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but **I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.**

B. Only — whatever else is going on in our lives our singular focus must be to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

C. If they were not honoring the gospel in their lives, then nothing else would matter.

D. The person who lives worthy of the gospel is a person who is empowered by the gospel and honors the gospel by staying true to the gospel.

- (1 Corinthians 2:2, 4b–5 ESV) For I decided to **know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified** ... not in plausible words of wisdom, **but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,** 5 **so that your faith** might not rest in the wisdom of men but **in the power of God.**

WHAT THAT LIFE LOOKS LIKE ...

3. The Imperative Obeyed: They would be standing firm, striving side by side and not frightened by anything, 1:27-28a.

- (Philippians 1:27–28a ESV) 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,** 28 and **not frightened in anything by your opponents.**

This imperative is primarily directed to the body of Christ, but for the body to stand firm the individuals in the body must stand firm.

A. We must together stand firm, hold our ground, and maintain our position in one spirit if we are to live worthy of the gospel.

Stand firm ... στήκω [steko] – to stand firm; to persevere, to persist; to keep one's standing; to hold one's ground; maintain a position.

Spirit ... πνεῦμα [pneuma] – of the wind; the spirit; the life, essence of a person; soul.

B. We must together with one mind at the same time with one another contend for the faith of the gospel.

Mind ... ψυχή [psyche] – a living being, a living soul; the immaterial part of a person.

Striving ... συναθλέω [sunathleo] – to strive at the same time with another; to struggle together; contend together; to struggle alongside of another.

C. We must not be frightened or intimidated or made to lose our confidence in anything by our opponents

Frightened ... πτόρω [pturo] – to be frightened; to be intimidated; to be made timid or fearful.

4. This life together in the gospel as described is a clear sign from God and to our opponents of their destruction and our salvation, 1:28b-30.

- (Philippians 1:28b-30 ESV) **This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.** 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.
- A. God has given us this life by his grace for the sake of Christ with the purpose that we would believe in him.
- B. God has also given us this life by his grace for the sake of Christ with the purpose that we would suffer for his sake.
- C. The suffering that has been granted to us is identified as the same suffering in conflict that Paul was experiencing—the good fight of faith.
 - (1 Timothy 6:12a ESV) **Fight the good fight of the faith.**
 - (Galatians 2:5 ESV) **To them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.**
 - (2 Corinthians 11:12 NIV) **And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about.**

How we live that life ...

5. Deliverance: We must experience the same deliverance as Paul and Job, 1:18b-20, cf. Job 13:15-16.

- (Philippians 1:18b-20 ESV) Yes, and I will rejoice, 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ **this will turn out for my deliverance**, 20 **as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed**, but that with full courage now as always **Christ will be honored** in my body, **whether by life or by death**.
- (Job 13:15-16 NIV) **Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him**; I will surely defend my ways to his face. 16 **Indeed, this will turn out for my deliverance**, for no godless person would dare come before him!
- A. Paul's statement in verse nineteen is word for word the statement of Job in 13:16 in the Septuagint (the

Greek translation of the Old Testament.)

- (Job 13:16 NIV) Indeed, **this will turn out for my deliverance** ...
- (Philippians 1:19 ESV) ... for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ **this will turn out for my deliverance**.

- B. Both were supremely confident in their relationship with God.
- C. Both were supremely confident in the sovereignty and goodness of God.
- D. Both were determined to look only to God knowing that their only hope for deliverance was from God.
- E. Job's true deliverance was not the restoration of his material wealth but seeing God for who he was.

- (Job 42:10 ESV) And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. **And the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.**

Job would tell us that his material possessions being restored double was nothing compared to the vision he now had of the sovereignty of God.

So what was Job's true deliverance?

- (Job 42:1-6 ESV) Then Job answered the LORD and said: 2 **"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.** 3 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore **I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me**, which I did not know. 4 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' 5 **I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you**; 6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

6. Job's supremely unrivaled peace and freedom of heart, soul and mind came from his absolute knowledge that God is sovereign and will do what he wants.

- A. He knew that it was absolutely impossible for anyone to thwart God's purpose.
- B. God's purpose being that God predestined some to be part of his sovereign, impossible-to-defeat plan which would continue on unabated until reaching its climax in the presence of God in glory.
 - (Romans 8:28-30 ESV) **And we know that for**

those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Job's deliverance, and then Paul's, came from being freed from the circumstances and whims of this world by the absolute, thorough, doubt-obliterating, God-given conviction and belief that God can do all things, and that no purpose of his can be thwarted.

C. Paul knew that what he had told the Philippians earlier in 1:6 was true of his life also.

- (Philippians 1:6 ESV) And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

7. An attempt toward a working biblical definition of absolute knowledge in the context of our study ...

- Absolute knowledge refers to a state of complete, infallible, and unconditioned awareness, entirely free from bias, contradiction, or external limitations.
- In the biblical context of Job and Paul it describes an all-encompassing, objective grasp of God on the ultimate stage of both temporal and eternal reality.
- God brought Job and Paul to this knowledge of himself by a refining, purifying process by which he filtered and transformed their thoughts of him using the circumstances of their lives and the sanctifying work of the word of God.
- So this knowledge ... that God can do all things, and that no purpose of his can be thwarted ... was pure, unimpeachable God knowledge ... unbiased, undistorted, unqualified, all-encompassing.

Unimpeachable describes something or someone that is entirely trustworthy, faultless, and above suspicion.

CONCLUSION: To live worthy of the gospel we must live in full surrender to Jesus Christ ...

We must consistently feed on the fruit of our salvation ... our true deliverance ... in full, unbridled, joyful, enthusiastic, loving surrender to Jesus Christ who set us free to righteousness ...

Christ must be our life ...

Anything less is less than the love relationship to which God calls us ...

- (Mark 12:29–30 ESV) Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'"