

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
Joy in the Journey
“The Community of Joy - Standing Firm & Striving Together”
Philippians 1:27-30
Drue Warner
1-18-26

OVERVIEW

Theme: ***“The Joy of Lord”***

Outline by Warren Wiersbe:

- I. The Single Mind (Philippians 1)
- II. The Submissive Mind (Philippians 2)
- III. The Spiritual Mind (Philippians 3)
- IV. The Secure Mind (Philippians 4)

TODAY: Outline of Philippians 1:27-30

Advancing the Gospel together through:

- 1. Character
- 2. Courage
- 3. Crisis

BACKGROUND & MAPS (modern / 1st century)

- 34 A.D. Paul’s conversion
- 46 A.D. 1st Missionary Journey (Asia - Turkey)
- 49 A.D. 2nd Missionary Journey (Europe - Greece)
 - Philippi
- 53 A.D. 3rd Missionary Journey (Europe - Greece)
- 62 A.D. Paul sent to Rome
 - letters to Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians

TEXT: Philippians 1:27-30

27 “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you **stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one** for the faith of the gospel 28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. 29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.”

Key Verse: Standing firm and striving together as one for the faith of the gospel (27b)

Philip II > Macedonian phalanx (360 A.D.) - impenetrable infantry formation (16 x 16 = 256)

What does the Macedonian phalanx look like for the Christian Church?

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
– John 13:35

Advancing the Gospel together through...

1. CHARACTER

What does it mean to *“conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ?”*

1. Look to Ephesians 4:1-3, where Paul challenges the Ephesian church to *“life a life worthy of the calling.”* What does that look like? Probably the same as Paul’s call here to *“conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel.”* Paul answers this in Philippians 2, but we’ll talk about that next week. :) For today, we’ll look at Ephesians 4:2-3, where he answers that question by saying, *“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*
2. It means that no matter what situation you find yourself in, whether being favored or persecuted, make sure that your attitude, words, and actions are in alignment with the gospel. The essential word here is... LOVE.
3. It also means that your life should line up with your beliefs. This happens when belief is at a level of conviction. (Great test as to whether your belief is genuine)
 - **QUESTION: How does belief become conviction?** We’ll answer that next...

2. COURAGE Confronting Fear

“...without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.” (vs. 28a)

- **Nero’s persecution of Christians (64 A.D. – 68 A.D.)** had the opposite effect. Instead of extinguishing Christianity, it caused it to explode.
- Don’t bail out because of fear. Hang in there. [“Do not fear” 366 times]
- We all deal with fear. The question is, “Who will we fear more – God or man?”
 - **Fear of Man vs. Fear of God** – “Fear of God” is an understanding of who God is in relation to us. It means respect, reverence, awe, honor, adoration and worship; it could even be translated as love for God. It recognizes the power, majesty and holiness of God Almighty. It leads to a healthy respect of God and is the antidote to all other fears and phobias we experience in life. Fear God and you need not fear anything else or anyone else. It is no coincidence that as the fear of God has decreased in our society, all the other fears have increased. We need to return to a right relationship with God.” - Nicky Gumbel (BiOY, Day 12)
- **KEY QUESTION: How does belief become conviction?** The pathway for belief to conviction usually begins when we experience crisis, crossroads, or challenges to what we believe.
 - **This past week, I had another dear friend, who has claimed to follow Christ for more than 30 years, completely walk away.** Over my 25+ years in ministry, I’ve heard this story more times than I would ever imagine possible. After so many years, how could a

“believer” walk away so easily? I don’t know the answer, but it could be that “belief” (intellect) never made it to the level of “conviction” (everything).

- As I reflect in my own life, my belief undoubtedly started by an **overwhelming experience of God's grace**, which came to me by His Spirit through the Word and prayer. It was a belief that penetrated my soul, but there was much room for growth as relates to conviction. That began to happen as I was **challenged in my faith** by other who doubted. It forced me to dive deep into God's Word and really figure out what I believe and what am I willing to stake my name and life to (i.e. conviction). It also happened as I **experienced crisis** (divorce, job loss, financial need). My conviction also grows every time I have an **opportunity to share the love of Christ** with others through my words and/or deeds.

“This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.” – Philippians 1:28b

- **Your lack of fear will be a sign to unbelievers that they are going the wrong way (against God) and you're going the right way (with God).**
- Your joy in the midst of suffering will create a lot of questions and those questions will create opportunity.
- World War II soldier who stumbled on 90 Germans, who had turned the tables on therefore American chapters. The German Lieutenant shoved his gun into his abdomen. He paused and looked at the situation and started smiling and laughing. None of the Germans were expecting that reaction and in the brief seconds of their bewilderment, the American soldier was able to grab his machine gun that was slung across his back and kill 40 German soldiers in an instant and take back the others as prisoners.

3. CRISIS

Called to Suffer

29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.”

Granted to Suffer for Him

The call to suffer is in the DNA of the Christian faith.

Any belief or teaching that prioritizes one’s own prosperity and comfort is heresy to the Christian faith. Jesus clearly taught that suffering and sacrifice are calling and evidences of true faith in Christ.

Jesus’ Instructions: 1) Disciples 2) Paul 3) Us

DISCIPLES - ¹⁶ “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. ¹⁸ On my account **you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.** ¹⁹ But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say

or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say,²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you... So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. **Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even **the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.**" - Matthew 10:16-20, 26-31

PAUL - "But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." - Acts 9:15-16

Q: Why is suffering so valuable? πάσχω (paschō) - to feel heavy emotion

1. Belief involves the mind and intellect, conviction / passion (suffering) involves the heart, body, and soul
2. Suffering strengthens faith (i.e., caterpillar to butterfly - the struggle is necessary to strengthen its wings)
3. Suffering attaches us to Jesus (i.e., we share in his sufferings) in the deepest expression of love, that which is sacrificial (more on this in Philippians 2)

CLOSING

If you're not confident that you'll have the character or courage to hold up under crisis, that's good! Let your lack point you to Jesus.

In your strength, you don't have what it takes, but in God's strength (through His Spirit, His Son, and His people), we are more than conquerors. Ultimately, our faithfulness to Him is undergirded, motivated, and empowered by His faithfulness to us.

If and when you're facing a crisis, trial, suffering or persecution for your faith, God will give you everything that you need in that moment. **He will give you the words to speak, the courage to stand, and the grace to persevere in the midst of the fire,** and as you do, you will experience His presence and his joy, and **God will use your courage to rescue others the same way He's rescued you.**

And that's Good News!