

YOU ARE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN: HONOR CHRIST!

Sunday, November 10, 2019 — Philippians series -- Msg 9 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

Philippians 1:27-30

English Standard Version (ESV)

27 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 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.

REVIEW:

- 1) Paul writes from a prison in Rome to the Philippian church he planted and loves.
- 2) Paul awaits execution chained to a Roman soldier and the Philippians endure much trouble.
- 3) Paul rejoices that whether he lives or dies, the salvation of God is his sure hope.
 - His joy is NOT based upon his circumstances. *Au contraire!*
 - His joy is based on God's salvation. vs 20-21
 - His joy was fed by people's prayer, the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and God's salvation promise. vs 19-21
- 4) Paul shows us that life is worth living when living for Christ's glory in others, AND that death is worth dying because it leads to glorious union with Christ.

Note the **BIG SHIFT**: from biographical (1:1-26) to instructional.

(Between vs 26 and vs 27 would have been a good place for a chapter division.)

Note the **FIRST BIG INSTRUCTION**: "Make sure your life shows Christ." vs 27

vs 27 *Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,*

'**Only**' being placed as the first word of the long sentence (vs 27-30) highlights the emphatic nature of this instruction. No room for other behavior.

'**let your manner of life**' or 'conduct yourselves' = *politeuesthe* = 'live as a citizen'
polis = city ie. a citizen of Rome.

{ Philippi was a colony of Rome in Macedonia (Greece).
Philippi had special status and esteem. They spoke Latin as if in Rome.
Philippian citizens maintained a certain dignity and decorum representing Rome.
(Think 'Gladiator')

{ The Philippian church was a colony of heaven in Philippi.
The Philippian church had a special standing in Christ yet still in the world.
The Philippian church was to maintain a holy life representing Christ, NOT the world.

27 *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,*

If the citizens of Philippi were so devoted to the honor of their human kingdom, how much more should believers in Christ, who are bought by the blood of God's Son, be devoted to His eternal kingdom?

Colossians 1:10-14

10 *so walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

What does it mean to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel?

1) Christians are to live a life that is consistent with God's revealed Word.

In what they believe.

In what they preach.

In what they defend.

In their morality.

In their words.

In their actions.

In their values.

In their affections.

In their attitude.

1 Thessalonians 2:12-13 and 4:1 (also see Titus 2:12)

12 *We encouraged you and comforted you as we urged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. 13 And we continually thank God because, when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as the true word of God—*

4:1 *Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.*

2) Christians are to expect opposition and stand firm in it.

Why expect opposition? Because the fallen world is hostile toward God.

(Rom. 1:28; 5:10; Eph. 2:3; Col. 1:21)

And because it hates God and His ways, it will hate us as we are faithful to Him.

(John 15:18; Matt. 5:11-12; 2 Tim. 3:12)

3) Christians are to expect God's help and rejoice in it.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God*

1 Peter 5:10

10 *And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*

WHO or WHAT have you been honoring in your life? Yourself? The World around you?

See ACTS 3:19: It is a calling/command with an amazing promised blessing...