

Sermon Title: Worth Suffering

Sermon Series: Philippians – Unbreakable Joy

Scripture: Philippians 1:27-30

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



When we say something is _____ our lives, we say it is _____ the cost in our lives.

Philippians 1:27-30 ESV

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy[a] 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.

1. The Gospel is Worth our Lives

2. Stand Firm in One Spirit

3. Strive Together to Believe Jesus

Philippians 1:27 ESV

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy[a] 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,

4. Do not be _____ by _____ to Jesus

Acts 24:24-27 ESV

24 After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. 25 And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you." 26 At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him. 27 When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

Philippians 1:28 ESV

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.

_____ in the face of _____ shows Jesus is worth it.

1 Peter 2:9, 11-12 ESV

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light...11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

5. Remember 2 Gifts of the Gospel

Philippians 1:29-30 ESV

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.

Gift 1 - Believing in _____

Gift 2 - Suffering

Our outlook on suffering depends on our _____

1 Peter 2:19-21 ESV

19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

Sometimes we suffer _____ from our _____

Sometimes we suffer because of _____ in the world

Suffering's _____ is expressed in who you suffer for and how well you suffer in it.

Matthew 5:10-12 ESV

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Philippians 1:12-14 ESV

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Show the world that Jesus is _____ it, even in _____!

Questions:

Getting to know you Questions:

1. What are some “causes” you have seen people give their lives to?

2. What cause would people say you give your life to? Why?

Into the Bible Questions:

Read Philippians 1:27-30

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.

1. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?

2. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?

3. In verse 27, the phrase “manner of life” means “live as citizens.” Philippians 3:20 says our primary citizenship is in heaven. Why is it so easy to only focus on our American citizenship instead of our heavenly citizenship?

4. Think of some cultural pressures that cause division and strife among the body of Christ.

How is the Spirit drawing us to unite together under one Spirit with your fellow believers in the cultural battle around us?

5. Ian said “Suffering’s worth is expressed in who you suffer for and how well you Suffer in it” - Why does your perspective on suffering matter? How is this passage challenging you to suffer well?

For Extra Study, Read Galatians 5:19-26

Galatians 5:19-26 ESV

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Since actions speak louder than words; what does Jesus say regarding people who talk the talk, but don’t walk the walk? (Vs. 19-21)

What does it mean to have conduct not worthy of the gospel? (Vs 22-24)

What would it look like to to “keep in step with the Spirit?” (Vs. 25)

What comfort does this passage bring to your life?

What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions

1. Why do you think Paul would say that the gospel is worth our lives?
2. When it comes to your perspective on suffering, what needs to change? What would it look like if it changed?
3. What are some ways you see Princetown Church laboring for the gospel?
4. What are some ways we could do better at this?
5. We are to strive together to hold to the faith of the gospel. What are some ways we can grow in our understanding of the gospel?
6. Is the gospel and unity in Jesus the “cause” of your life? What would need to change to have the gospel be the “cause” of your life?
7. How can our group help each other with these questions?

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Princetown Church

Love Jesus - Love One Another - Live with Purpose