

Series: Philippians: That We May Know Him III

Text: Philippians 1:18b-30

HI: You can live with fearless faith when you serve a glorious Christ.

Title: *Fearless Faith*

Hook: Phobias

Date: 9.24.23

Purpose: To magnify the glory of Christ so that his people would live fearlessly.

FCF: Paul and the Philippians could have lived in fear, but God's grace granted them the faith to suffer well.

COR: Suffering shows what's at our core, and the message of this text is that a glorious Savior empowers a fearless people.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: Christ's Spirit sustains us, his gospel marks us, and his glory awaits us.

Apologetic: in v. 28: The truth of the gospel reveals that Christ is the dividing line for all humanity. When you submit to him in faith you will be saved. If you deny him, you will be judged.

Text Tone: Exhort

Preaching Voice: Prophetic

Form: Deductive (in MVM 1 @ 1:21)

Call to Worship: We have gathered today to glorify Christ. Let's join together and sing.

Benediction: As we scatter from this place, live rooted in Christ and focused on the gospel. Be the Church where the Spirit calls you this week. Walk in God's grace.

Outline:

I. The prospect of death cannot shake a Christ-rooted life.

A. Paul is willing to die for Christ. (18b-21)

B. Paul is ready to live for Christ. (22-26)

II. The pain of suffering will not deter a gospel-focused church.

A. We are called to live what we claim to believe. (27)

B. God gives us the grace to live for him in a world that hates him. (28-30)

Main Idea:

Subject: Paul's example for the church and his exhortation to the church on how to engage the work of the gospel amid suffering

Complement: He is focused on Christ and living with fearless faith.

Exegetical Idea: Paul's example serves to exhort the Philippians to engage the work of the gospel amid suffering because he is focused on Christ and lives with fearless faith.

Theological Idea: When God's people maintain a singular focus on the glory of Christ, they engage the work of the gospel with fearless faith.

Homiletical Idea: You can live with fearless faith when you serve a glorious Christ.

Introduction:

READ Philippians 1:18b-30

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as 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.

²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only 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, ²⁸and 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. ²⁹For 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, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

RE-READ Philippians 1:18b-26

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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. ²¹ 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.

I. The prospect of death cannot shake a Christ-rooted life.

HI: You can live with fearless faith when you serve a glorious Christ.

“No one is ready to live until they are ready to die.” Steven Lawson

Charles Wesley: *O Thou Who Camest From Above* (1762)

Ready for all Thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death Thy endless mercies seal,
And make the sacrifice complete.

1 Cor. 15:1-5: Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

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. ²⁹For 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, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

II. The pain of suffering will not deter a gospel-focused church.

Jude 3: Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for **the faith** that was once for all delivered to the saints.

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