

Reflection Questions: Philippians 1:27-30

For the message, "Living a Life Worthy of the Gospel" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on November 6, 2022

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: 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.

Bottom Line:

- Jesus' royalty deserves our loyalty no matter what.
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Let's get started...

- What initially grabs your attention in this text as we read through it again? What questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what its saying?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Many Christians have been intrigued by Paul's exhortation, "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel..." What do you hear the Apostle of Jesus saying with these words?
 - As we mentioned in our study, the phrase "let your manner of life" is one word in the original language—a verb which has the word citizen at its core. You could translate it "continue to live as good citizens in a manner worthy of the gospel" (International Standard Bible), or even as "let your public life as a citizen be worthy of the gospel." Knowing that, how does Paul's instruction open up fresh meaning for you?
- The Apostle of Jesus wants this Philippian congregation living in the middle of a Roman colony to "stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents." In what ways have you experienced intimidation or the anticipation of intimidation for being a Christian?

- How should the fact that Paul, being in chains for Christ, calling his friends in Philippi (and us) to not be frightened by any opponents encourage you to be more open? How might it have the effect on us, like it did the Roman Christians, to “become confident in the Lord... [to] be more bold to speak the word without fear,” that is, to speak the word of / about Christ without fear?

- How does rooting our lives in the death and resurrection of Jesus give us courage to live a life worthy of the gospel?

2. Let’s think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus’ followers.

- How can we encourage one another *stand firm* and to *strive side by side for the gospel*?
- What can we learn from these words that Paul wrote from prison to the Ephesians, “...keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak” (Eph. 6:18-20)?

3. Let’s think about how this text applies to our city.

- No doubt our situation here in Bryan / College Station is very different that the pressures facing the Philippians as they sought to live a life worthy of the gospel of Christ. And yet, we are still called to do it. What comes to your mind when you think of Christians winsomely and intelligently sharing the gospel with others? What do you think are our biggest obstacles?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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