

November 3, 2019 19085-A #4
Philippians 1:27-2:18
Gospel-Worthy Transformation

I. Matt.20:20-28. Jesus turns life inside out and upside down.

A. The principles of His Lordship and Kingdom are almost exactly the opposite of WorldThink. KingdomThink is so different...

II. Paul learned this by experience at his conversion and Philippians is a classic pastoral letter. 1:1-26

A. **Paul has been explaining about his own situation and perspective. 1:1-26. His joy has a simple two-part explanation.**

1. He had no personal agenda but the progress of the gospel. 1:12-18

a) He did have short-term goals of various sorts. But his ultimate story was Gospel, the expanding lordship and grace of Christ.

2. He had no personal doubts about God's goodness or sovereignty. 1:1-11

a) This didn't mean that he was not at times discouraged or confused. Only that he had a supreme confidence in the Lord's dealings to fall back on. **2 Cor. 4:7-12**

B. Now he begins to gently exhort the Philippian Christians to maturity in Christ. 1:27-2:18.

III. Three instructions. 1:27-2:18

A. Live Worthy of the gospel, because you are secure in it. 1:6; 27-30

1. Whatever happens (NIV) conduct yourselves worthy of the gospel.

a) It does not mean becoming "worthy" by our works.

2. It means living authentically in the Spirit-reality of gospel.

a) Worthy = bringing up the other beam of the scales, equilibrium, in balance with, in keeping with, congruent with the gospel.

(1) Not "balancing karma", but living in Christ without hypocrisy. I Cor. 11:27(Eph. 4:1; Col. 1:10; I Thess. 2:12; II Thess. 1:11; Rev. 3:4;)

3. Primarily in Suffering. Suffering is part of the gift of God's covenant love.

a) And all suffering (Jas 1:1-4) in discipleship and witness has deep meaning.

B. Think like Jesus, because your character is being transformed. 2:1-13

1. If the Spirit's presence is among you (and he is), then lean into His character.

a) Encouragement in Christ; Comfort from love; Sharing in the Spirit's life; Affection and sympathy/compassion

2. Because the way to maturity is to lose your pride. Matt.20:20-28

C. Keep your head in the game, because this is not a rehearsal. 12-18

1. Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

a) Pay attention to your faith and your walk with God.

b) Based on God's work in and through you.

2. God at work within you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure

a) Concurrence, Compatibilism. **Prov.3:5-8**

b) As we commit our way to the Lord and prioritize our relationship with him and his mission, he mysteriously uses our daily lives to further his kingdom and develop our maturity.

3. Your life is a contrast to the world around you. 14

a) Because you grasp firmly the gospel, the message of life in Christ.

b) The contrast may mean you are persecuted...not congratulated...

4. Your joy and mine transcends death itself, anchored in Christ. 1 Cor.15:56-58

a) So, rejoice with me, even if I die.

IV. The Spirit is drawing us into Gospel reality, reminding us of 5 things in Christ.

A. Our Citizenship is in heaven. 1:27; 2:14-16. 3:20. We are expats here. 1 Pet.1:1-2

1. Conduct yourselves/let your manner of life (ESV) = life as a citizen (not in a political sense, but as a visible member of a particular community.)
2. Loyalty. To God in Christ personally. 2:16
 - a) Personal loyalty to Jesus Christ, seeking to do what he wants done because you just worship him.
 - b) Gladly confessing Jesus Christ as Lord, to God the Father's glory. 2:11

B. Our Unity is in the Spirit. 27b. loyal, missional, humble. 1:27; 2:12-13

1. Loyal to Christ, because that is what the Spirit does in us.
 - a) He is our king, Lord, Savior, Mentor.
2. Missional in the world, because that is the Lord's command to us. (Matt.28:18-20)
 - a) Striving together = striving or competing on the same side of some great work. Part of a team. Christianity is a team effort.
 - b) For the faith of the gospel = Based on loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ and the message of his person and work.
3. Humble with each other, because that is the Lord's way with us. 2:1-11
 - a) Humility: Not considered a virtue in Roman society. Seen as a weakness, servanthood and gentleness were ridiculed.
 - (1) Seeing others' needs as more important than mine
 - (2) Not motivated by rivalry/personal ambition or conceit
 - b) Sourced in Christ's own humble character. 2:7
 - (1) KJV = made himself of no reputation...
4. Humility and loyalty to Christ together, because without humility the Christian loyalty becomes religious arrogance, proud of our loyalty to the humble king? But without loyalty to the Lord as the Lord, humility becomes either an act people put on for proud reasons, or a self-flagellating exercise in "holiness" of our own making.

C. Our struggle is expected. 1:28-30; 2:12-17 (Jn.16:33)

1. Not surprised by struggle and suffering. 1:29-30; 2:17-18
 - a) The conflict is the spiritual warfare in our world, opposition to the message of the saving lordship of Christ
2. Courage under fire. They stay on task and don't spook easily.
 - a) alarmed frightened, scared, like a horse running from something in the road.

D. Our Rescue is anticipated. 1:28b; 2:17-18

1. *Relief in the face of judgment. Aware of coming judgment, and reminded of personal rescue.*
2. **Matt.10:26-31.** Fear the judgment in the sense that you are precious and cared for by God in Christ, rescued from the coming judgment, snatched from the fire
 - a) The day of Christ. 2:16 (1:10; 2 Cor.5:10)
3. The reason that western pagans do not value the gospel is that they have no fear of God, no sense of the danger He poses to the unrepentant soul, no awareness of hell. *God is very dangerous...*

E. Our Joy is eternal. A joy that is not sourced in this life. 2:17-18

1. Life poured out as a drink offering for other people's faith—Fine!

V. All because our Lord has already done and all of these on our behalf. 2:9-11

- A. Citizenship: He gave us His. Jn.17
- B. Unity: He supplied our unity by being torn apart. Lk.22:19; 1 Cor.11:24
- C. Victory: He struggled against Satan and won. Eph.1
- D. Rescue: We are already dead and alive with Him. Col.3:1-4; Eph.2:1-10
- E. Joy: His peace and joy are ours in Him. Jn.14:27; 15:11

VI. *He gives us credit for doing all of these things in Christ, so that we can keep standing up and growing into these. What is not to like about this message?*