

Philippians 1:21-30_Unlocking Joy: Through Living your Life Worthy of the Gospel.

What does your life say about what you believe?

Not what your words say. Not what your social media posts say. But what your life—the way you live, the way you suffer, the way you endure, the way you serve—actually **screams** to the world.

Because make no mistake, every single one of us is preaching a message with our lives. The only question is: **Is it the Gospel?**

See, we live in a world that's filled with noise. Everyone's screaming something—political opinions, personal agendas, self-promotion, and endless distractions. People are fighting for attention, for influence, for validation.

But in the middle of all that chaos, **there should be one message that rises above it all.**

One life-changing, eternity-shaping, hope-giving truth that stands out from the rest.

And that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

But there's a problem: **most Christians aren't screaming it.**

Most Christians are whispering the Gospel... if they're even saying it at all.

They live in a way that blends in rather than stands out. They play it safe. They avoid controversy. They say they believe in Jesus, but their lives don't reflect anything that would make the world stop and take notice.

That's not how Paul lived. That's not how he taught the Philippians to live. Paul's life **screamed** the Gospel.

Everything about him—his priorities, his decisions, his sacrifices, his suffering—it all pointed people to Jesus.

And in [Philippians 1:21-30](#), he lays out five marks of a life that does the same.

If you want to live a life that leaves no doubt about where you stand...

If you want to live in a way that makes heaven proud and hell nervous...

If you want your life to be a loud, clear, undeniable testimony of the saving power of Jesus...

Then these five marks must define you.

Let's start with the first:

5 Marks of a Life That Screams the Gospel.

They:

Wrestle with staying or going to be with Jesus. v21-24

Paul wrestled with something that should challenge every believer—whether to stay and serve or to depart and be with Jesus.

“21 For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don't know which one I should choose.”

Paul was torn between two great desires: living for Christ and being with Christ.

For him, life was simple—**Jesus was everything**. His purpose, his work, his joy, his very existence revolved around serving Christ. No suffering, no threats, no hardship could shake his commitment because his life was poured out for the Gospel.

Yet at the same time, he had a deep longing for heaven. He continues:

23 I am torn between the two. I long to depart and be with Christ—which is far better,...Paul knew that nothing in this life could compare to being with Jesus. We were created for eternity, designed to dwell in the presence of God, free from sin, pain, and struggle. So, of course, a part of him wanted to go.

And if you truly love Jesus, there should be a part of you that feels the same way.

Yet, at the same time, he understood that the timing wasn't up to him. **God had given him an assignment, and until it was complete, he was to be about it.**

This tension—**longing for heaven but working hard for Jesus in the meantime**—is something we all have to contend with.

Maybe you're in a season where life is hard. You feel exhausted, discouraged, and just plain worn out. You look at the brokenness of the world and think, "Lord, I just want to be with You."

If that's you, I get it. I really do. I have those days too.

But now is not the time to check out. Now is not the time to say, "Well, I've got my ticket to glory, so I'll just coast through life to bad for everyone else. That's not how this works. Neither is it right to ignore heaven as if it doesn't matter until the day you die.

Both extremes are wrong. The right perspective is Paul's perspective.

Be prepared to die for your faith, knowing that the moment you do, you'll be with Jesus.

But at the same time, **be just as committed to living for your faith**, knowing that as long as you have breath, God has work for you to do.

So, keep your heart fixed on glory, but keep your hands busy doing the work God has assigned to you.

It's **both/and, not either/or**.

Wrestle with staying or going... That's the first mark of a life that screams the Gospel.

The second is... they...

Own their assignment and put in the necessary work v24-26

Despite the sweet satisfaction of heaven awaiting him, Paul comes to a bold conclusion—**he must remain**.

Not for himself. Not because he's afraid to die. But because God had more work for him to do in the lives of the Philippians.

So Paul resolved in his spirit: *I'm staying. I'm all in. I will pour out my life until the Lord says my assignment is complete.*

Paul says it this way in v24, I want to go. I want to depart from this life...

24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake".

That's the heart of true servant.

Not my will, Lord. Yours.

Not my comfort.

Not my retirement plan.

Paul knew exactly what his assignment was, and he was **fully committed** to seeing it through. He lays it out clearly in verses 25-26:

25 Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that, because of my coming to you again, your boasting in Christ Jesus may abound.

Paul was convinced and committed to:

- Helping the Philippians grow in their faith.
- Instilling **joy** in their walk with Christ.
- Inspiring them to **boast in Jesus**—making much of Him.

Even in his final days, Paul lived for the sake of others.

What I'm about to say applies to every single person in this room: **You have a God given assignment to impart your wisdom in other.**

Just like a Bumble bee helps to pollinate plants and flowers, we're to pollinate others.

One of the biggest struggles in any organization—whether it's a church, a business, or a ministry—is the loss of wisdom when people: die, move on, or fail to invest in the next generation.

When the flow of knowledge is cut off.

When wisdom isn't passed down, it's lost.

And when wisdom is lost, progress slows down and in some cases the organization is forced to shutter its doors.

Paul refused to let that happen.

He was determined to **stay and pour out everything he had** so that the Philippians could experience **growth and joy in the Lord.**

And that's exactly what **you and I are called to do.**

Four ways to own your assignment:

1. Live in service to others -

God doesn't expect you to wait until your life is easy before you serve others.

Even when you're going through your own struggles, He calls you to **lend a helping hand** to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

2. Adopt a legacy mindset

Make decisions based on how they will **impact future generations.** Not just yours.

3. Keep progressing in your faith

There are people assigned to you—**people God has placed in your life to help.**

And the worst thing that could happen is **not being ready when your moment comes.** So get ready, stay ready. **Keep growing, so that when your time comes, you can step up.**

4. Impart your wisdom to others.

Everything you've learned—**every challenge you've faced, every lesson you've picked up along the way—has prepared you for life.**

We need **what you've learned.**

Just like the Philippians needed Paul, the people around you **need what's inside of you.** So, **own your assignment.** Pour into others.

That's the second mark of a life that screams the Gospel and unlocks joy.

Which brings us to number three....

That's number two... Third...

Keep Jesus first and contend for Him with others. v27

Paul doesn't mince words here. He tells the Philippians...

"27 Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel,..."

That's it. That's the whole assignment. **Live worthy of the Gospel.**

Paul reminds them—and us—that our first identity is not in this world. We may hold earthly citizenships. Your country of origin may read “United States of America”. **But we belong to Jesus before we belong to anything else.** (repeat) That means our lives should reflect the values of heaven, not the culture around us.

Yes, we live in this world. We work, we build, we raise families, we contribute to society. But we don't **live like the world**—because we don't belong to it. We belong to Christ.

And let me tell you—nothing will rob your joy faster than trying to fit in with a world while claiming Jesus.

That's why Paul says, “**stand firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel.**”

The word “**contending**” means to fight, to struggle, to push forward against resistance. That means this isn't going to be easy. If you want to live for Christ, you're going to have to fight for it. You're going to have to stand firm. You're going to have to hold the line, even when the world is pushing against you.

But let's be real—it is **easier to blend in than to stand out.** Is it not?

It's easier to laugh at the crude joke at work than to be the one who walks away.

It's simpler to stay silent when people gossip than to be the one who calls it out.

It's more comfortable to follow the crowd, to go along with culture, to avoid making waves.

It's simpler to nod along when truth is twisted than to be the one who speaks up.

It's less risky to compromise a little than to be the one who stands firm in conviction.

It's easier to scroll past the inappropriate content on social than to be the one who reports the content and refuses to consume it.

We're to called to resist. To stand against. Just because the culture says something is okay doesn't mean God approves of it.

And just because the world is doing something doesn't mean you should follow.

There are plenty of people who claim the name of Jesus, but their lives tell a different story. Do your best **not** to be counted in that number. The number of people who know how to **talk** the talk, but their lives tell a different story. They ain't a Christian no more than a wolf is a sheep.

That kind of hypocrisy isn't just recognized by us, but the worlds see it and it pushes them even further away from Jesus.

Paul is clear—**live worthy of the Gospel.** That means your **private** life and your **public** life match. Don't be a cross-dressing Christians. Y'all know what I'm saying.

Contend for the faith—not just when it's easy, but even when it costs you.

Because when we live like we truly belong to Jesus, the world takes notice, they get to see authentic Christianity. And more importantly—**God is glorified.**

So let me ask you—are you living like a citizen of heaven? Or are you trying to fit into a world that's passing away?

The world needs to see real believers who live with conviction, who love with truth, and who **put Jesus first no matter what it costs.**

That's the **third mark of a life that screams the Gospel... 4th... they...**

Ignore the haters and see opposition as confirmation. v28

That's essentially what Paul is saying in v28...

“**I will hear about you... 28 not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation—and this is from God.**”

Paul is saying that standing firm in the face of opposition is proof that you belong to Christ. He's also putting the Philippians on notice that when you live worthy of the Gospel, **you will be hated for it.**

Hear me when I say this: **being hated for your faith is not an accident—it's confirmation.**

It proves you're doing something right.

Jesus said it Himself: in ([John 15:18](#)) "If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me before it hated you."

Sometimes, the hate will come from *inside*—from other believers who, like Paul's rivals hated on him in v15-17. But mostly, the hate will come from *outside*—from nonbelievers who feel convicted just by being around you.

They see you walking in righteousness, and it exposes their sin. It forces them to confront their spiritual emptiness. And instead of seeking Jesus, they lash out.

Like spoiled toddlers, they throw tantrums.

When you live boldly for Christ, you don't even have to say a word—just your presence and how you conduct yourself makes people uncomfortable. Like...

- At work, you don't gossip, cuss, or complain—so your coworkers think you're "too good" for them. That you're stuck up.
- You bow your head and pray before your meal in public—someone mocks you for it.
- You tell your kids that sex is for marriage—people call you "old-fashioned" or "controlling."
- You refuse to support certain ideologies that go against Scripture—now you're a "bigot."
- You say, "Jesus is the only way to heaven"—now you're "intolerant."
- You don't party, or practice hooking up—so you get labeled "boring" or "out of touch."
- You stand for biblical truth on gender and sexuality—now you're the enemy.

That's when people will come after you, your faith, your church, and even your God. B/c your differences makes them feel convicted. Which is something they've probably never felt before. And instead of asking you for help. Or talking to you about why your think or behave a differently, they either avoid you like Covid or they attack you.

My heart breaks for people like that, b/c we're the help they truly need.

Now, listen—if you never face opposition like this... if you don't have a clue what I'm talking about... that's a red flag.

If nobody's ever mocked you, challenged you, or come against you for your faith... or worse, if *you're* the one tearing down other believers—then you need to check yourself.

Because if you're living just like the world, the world has no reason to come for you. You're not a threat. You're not different. You're just another voice blending in with all the other pagans in the crowd.

If that's you, repent today. Get right with the Lord before you walk out of this church. Because as the songwriter said, "*Ain't no future in your frontin'.*" *You can't front like your'e Christian in this life and expect to taste glory.* So, you can keep frontin, stutin, if you won't too.

But for the rest of you—those of you who feel the heat, who feel the pressure, who feel the weight of opposition—**stay encouraged.**

The hate you experience is uncomfortable, yes. But it's worth it.

It's confirmation that you belong to Jesus.

It's confirmation that your faith is real.

It's confirmation that you're a threat to the enemy's agenda.

So keep standing. Keep speaking. Keep living for Jesus.

Ignore the haters and see opposition as confirmation that you are living righteously.

That's our fourth mark of a life that screams the Gospel, 5th and finally...

Embrace the suffering it comes with being in Christ. v29-30

Let's be honest—most people don't associate **suffering** with **joy**.

We live in a world that tells us to avoid pain at all costs.

People come to Christ thinking faith will make life easier. And when trouble hits—when the job is lost, when the diagnosis comes, when the betrayal stings—they start to wonder, *Did I do something wrong? Where is God?*

Some even abandoned the faith, having never truly believed.

But here's the truth: **Walking with Jesus means suffering for Jesus.**

Not because God enjoys watching us struggle. But because we live in a world that is broken, sinful, and hostile toward God.

Paul puts it bluntly in [Philippians 1:29-30](#):

“29 For it has been granted to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in him, also to suffer for him,30 since you are engaged in the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have.”

Paul doesn't say suffering **might** happen—he says it's been **granted** to us, just like faith. That means suffering isn't an accident, a mistake, or a punishment. **It's part of the deal.**

If you are in Christ, you will suffer. Period.

Now, I know that's not a popular message. But I'm not here to preach what's popular. I'm here to preach the truth.

Let me give you three reasons why suffering comes with following Jesus:

1. Suffering Comes Because You Belong to Jesus

Jesus didn't just warn us about suffering—He promised it:

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” — [John 16:33](#)

Not *some* of you will suffer. **All** of you will.

Why? Because following Jesus separates you from the world.

You can be as selfish, immoral, arrogant, or rebellious as you want, and the world won't care. **But the moment you say, “I follow Jesus,” you've crossed the line.** That's when the world pushes back.

People don't like being reminded that there's a **righteous way to live**. So they lash out.

They'll call you extreme.

They'll call you intolerant.

They'll call you outdated.

But Jesus calls you **faithful**.

Suffering follows faith **like a shadow—always near, always present.**

2. Suffering Comes Because You Are in a Spiritual War.

Following Jesus doesn't just put you at odds with the world—it puts you in direct **conflict with satan himself**.

Paul reminds us in [Ephesians 6:12](#):

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

The moment you belong to Jesus, **you become a target.**

Satan isn't worried about lukewarm, casual Christians who sit in church but don't live for Christ. But the moment you start walking in obedience, sharing the Gospel, standing for truth, and refusing to compromise—**that's when the enemy takes notice.**

And believe me, he will come after you.

He has a full arsenal of weapons:

- **Persecution** – Rejection, mockery, loss of relationships, even physical harm.
- **Doubt and Discouragement** – He'll whisper lies in your ear: *"God isn't with you." "Is this really worth it?. Your'e not smart enough. Your'e only a women."*
- **Circumstantial Attacks** – He'll hit you where it hurts—piling on stress, suffering, and hardship when you're already struggling. Like being kicked when your'e already down.

But listen—if Satan is attacking you, **it's because you're a threat to his kingdom.**

And that should **encourage you.**

Because it means you're on the right path. So don't shrink back. Stand firm. Fight the good fight. **Victory belongs to Christ and he's already won!**

3. Suffering Comes Because God Uses It to Strengthen You.

Paul says in [Romans 5:3-4](#):

"...we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Suffering isn't pointless—it's God's process that he uses to...

deepen your dependence on Him.

To **sharpens** your faith and strips away distractions.

To **Provide** you a testimony that strengthens others.

When you suffer for Christ, you're not alone—God is right there with you. You're walking the same road as the faithful saints who came before you.

So don't panic—**press in.**

And here's the best part: **this suffering won't last—but the reward will.**

That reward of **Eternity with God in heaven**—the very place Paul longed to be. A place with **no more pain, no more suffering—only joy, peace, and the fullness of God's presence.**

Knowing that heaven is our home should fuel our faith. To keep **fighting the good fight** until He calls us home.

Conclusion

So here's the question:

Does your life **scream** the Gospel?

Not whisper it.

Not mumble it.

Not casually reference it when it's convenient.

But **scream it—boldly, unashamedly, with every fiber of your being.**

Paul laid out five marks of a life that does:

- ✓ **They wrestle with staying or going.**
- ✓ **They own their assignment and put in the work.**
- ✓ **They keep Jesus first and contend for Him.**
- ✓ **They ignore the haters and see opposition as confirmation.**
- ✓ **They embrace the suffering that comes with Christ.**

So what about you?

Does your life reflect these marks?

Or are you just getting by—content with a faith that makes no waves, takes no risks, and invites no opposition?

The world doesn't need more casual Christians.

The world needs men and women who are **all in** for Jesus. Who's lives scream the Gospel.

Before you walk out of here today, ask yourself:

If someone watched my life unfold, from the day I got saved until now, would they know—without a doubt—that I take my faith seriously?

Let's not just **claim** the Gospel.

Let's **live it**.

Let's **fight for it**.

Let's **suffer for it**.

Until the day Lord calls us home.

Let's pray

Closing

Prayer/q's/recommit, CC, Womens, LGLP