

Worthy of the Gospel

Taylor Houser / Devotion

Good morning to you all and welcome to another Friday. I hope everyone has been enduring this heatwave well. Thankfully the worst of it seems past and we finally have some cool overnight temperatures to refresh us from the midday baking. Today I would us to consider a verse from Philippians. [Philippians 1:27a](#), “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ” (NIV this time rather than the usual ESV).

“Whatever happens” indeed! Everyday until we go be with the Lord, or until He comes back, *whatever* happens to us. It could be a lazy day, relaxing at home with the family. It could be a busy and stressful day at work. It could even be something dire or an emergency. During our lives, we will experience manifold things, both good and bad, happy and sad, wonderful and dolorous. And in every instance Paul tells us we must strive to live “in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Not that Paul is saying we must earn or merit salvation, the Good News, but rather we ought to live in a way that honors that which has been given to us. If someone gives you a precious gift, you don’t throw it in the mud and trample it, but rather you treasure it and care for it. But what does that look like for us, exactly? Paul doesn’t leave us guessing, but continues in chapter 2 and gives examples to the church in Philippi. It is a life of living in faith, a life of obedience to the commandments of God, a life of humbleness, meekness, and even of self-sacrifice. Not exactly the easiest things to do, of course. When you lose your job suddenly and without warning, it is hard to trust, to have faith, in God and His plans. When someone slights you and offends you greatly, it is too easy to want to repay them tit-for-tat rather than to forgive them and love them as God forgives and loves us. When we get an unexpected windfall, it seems so natural to spend it wantonly on frivolous items rather than on helping out one another. We are not the first Christians to struggle with living in a right manner when faced with the world, we won’t be the last either. But we have so much to lean on and draw upon for help. We have the Holy Spirit, that eternal helper Himself, to strengthen us and to guide us. We have one another here in the church to talk about our daily walk and engage in fellowship with. And we have the examples, both of them persevering and of them slipping, of the saints kept for us in God’s unerring text, the Bible. And if we find ourselves

not conducting ourselves in a manner truly worthy of the Good News, then we have also that selfsame Good News to lean wholly on, the forgiveness of sins purchased by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We know that as new creations in Christ we have the complete remission of our sins. As we are reminded in [1 John 1:9](#), “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

So as you go about your day today, are you living in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ? How is your walk with Christ in general? Are you better at following Him on the good days? Does your faith stay strong on the bad days? Have you kept your vices in check? How are fruitful are your good works? Do you meditate on His laws and regularly read His Word? Lord God, Heavenly Father, we ask you help us to live the life you want us to live. We pray that be with us in our struggle against the flesh, against the world, and against that ancient foe and his many snares. Give to us your Holy Spirit to empower us where by ourselves we are weakest. Prompt us to examine our lives often and regularly so that we may at all times be a people pleasing to you and a light to world.