

012620 Growth Group Study Kingdom Citizenship



Background: Paul has been catching the Philippians up on the state of his life. While things look hard on the outside (he's in jail awaiting a trial that could lead to his death) he remains strong in the Lord. He's settled on his life mantra moving forward: To live is Christ and to die is gain. Paul will now turn his attention to the Philippians and what their lives should look like as citizens of God's Kingdom, a lifestyle that he is modeling for them, and by extension, us.

Sermon Text: Phil 1:27-30 (ESV)

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.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
- b. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- c. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

2. Sermon questions

- a. Ryan asked this question, “As I look at my life, do I live my life in alignment with my heavenly King and his kingdom?” Note that two defining characteristics of this alignment are “love and humility” (vs. “perfectionism” and/or “judgmentalism”). If perfectionism and/or judgmentalism “plague” you, do you know why? Moving forward, what could you do to make your “love abound more and more” (Phil 1:9)?
- b. Paul encourages the Philippians to stay unified in mind and spirit (v 27). Ryan made the comment that their “anchor” for unity comes from the Holy Spirit. Do you feel a “unity of mind and spirit” with your small group/our church (even though we are very diverse)? Why or why not?
- c. Are you currently suffering? Explain. Part of being a community is bearing each other’s burdens. How can your small group practically support you in this time of suffering?
- d. Are you currently suffering for the Gospel? Explain.
- e. Make your prayer this week that the Lord would bring a non-believer into your life with whom you can share your story/testimony. As the Lord answers your prayer, be sure to share with the group.