

The Fellowship of Gospel Joy
“A Life Worthy of Gospel Joy”
Philippians 1
Sunday, August 5, 2012

INTRODUCTION

A. Thanksgiving in Light of Gospel Joy (vv.1-11)

1. Thankful for the local body of Christ, the church (**vv. 1-5**)
 - a) The redeemed
 - b) The fellowship
 - c) The partnership
2. Thankful for God’s unstoppable mission in, and through, the church (**v.6**)
3. Thankful for sincere affection for the church (**vv.7-11**)
 - a) Personal relationship (Paul sees “things” as tools and provision, but he is ever grateful for people)
 - b) Passion for Christ formed in the body
 - c) Heart-felt affection results in passionate praying

B. Advancing of Gospel Joy (vv.12-18)

1. Testimony of gospel advancement (**vv.12-14**)
 - a) Telling what God is doing in gospel witness
 - b) Telling what God is doing in gospel encouragement to the church
 - c) Trusting God’s means and medium (imprisonment, suffering)

2. Preaching central to gospel advancement (**vv.15-18**)
 - a) Better for better reasons
 - b) Message, not the messenger, changes lives
 - c) Centrality of Christ and the Cross -- for the lost city and redeemed church
 - d) **D.A. Carson** (Basics for Believers), “Paul’s example is impressive and clear: Put the advance of the gospel at the center of your aspirations. Our own comfort, our bruised feelings, our reputations, our misunderstood motives - all of these are insignificant in comparison with the advance of the splendor of the gospel. As Christians, we are called upon to put the advance of the gospel at the very center of our aspirations. What are your aspirations? To make money? To get married? To travel? To see your grandchildren grow up? to find a new job? To retire early? None of these is inadmissible; none is to be despised. The question is whether these aspirations become so devouring that the Christian’s central aspiration is squeezed to the periphery or choked out of existence entirely.”

C. Living the Life of Gospel Joy (vv.19-30)

1. To live IS Christ (**vv.18b-26**)
 - a) Decide to rejoice (**vv.18b-20**)
 - (1) On gospel grounds
 - (2) Only the gospel is sufficient for this kind of decision & determination
 - (3) Experienced through prayer
 - b) Live in light of death (**vv.21-26**)
 - (1) To live for Christ means you must believe that dying is gaining Christ

- (2) You can't fake this...Christ must be your dying and living passion
- (3) Dying to self adulation means you can live or die for Christ's glorification

2. Living life worthy of the gospel (**vv.27-30**)

- a) Living for Christ is not a mantra, statement, or vision...it is manner, a way of life
- b) The gospel affects EVERYTHING (finances, marriages, jobs, ministry, etc)
- c) Fear is cast out...reviling, loss of income, suffering -- BECAUSE the gospel will be put on display, and the believer riddled with gospel affection does not resist God's administration of His glory in their lives.

D. Application & Implications

- 1. We must know the gospel

- 2. We must live, not program, the gospel

- 3. We must encourage one another to have a gospel manner