

July 20, 2014

The Faith of the Gospel

Philippians 1:27-30

INTRODUCTION:

Our focus during the church service is

- to praise God through song,
- to remember during communion what he did for us by sending his Son for our sins,
- to encourage each other in our faith,
- and to look at the Word to mature in our Godly wisdom so we can make the correct decisions in life.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Philippians 1:27-30

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one ^amind striving together for the faith of the gospel; ²⁸ in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

Prayer

What do we know about this Philippian church? Paul wrote to the church in Phillipi and said “Let your conduct or manner of life reflect the Gospel of Christ. **If you have been changed by the Gospel, then live that changed life.** He said I don't know if I will be able to see you again, but whether I do or don't, I want to continue to hear good things about you.” He wanted to continue to hear that they were standing firm in their faith and working together with the same mind (and pay special attention to this last phrase) **for the Faith of the Gospel**. This is what I am going to **key in on** during this message.

Notice how Paul led in to this last phrase. **If you have been changed by the Gospel, then live that changed life.** He wanted them to be a unified church, standing together steadfastly and striving together with one spirit and one mind. That is the type of church that we should be striving to be. A church

whose membership is unified in its steadfastness in the **Faith of the Gospel**. That is a church who considers the faith of the Gospel to be so essential that whatever it takes, by God's grace, we are going to preserve that.

BODY:

I. Live the Faith of the Gospel.

What is the Faith of the Gospel?

The "Faith of the Gospel" is more than just the FACTS of the Gospel. We can tell people in a few short minutes **ABOUT** the Gospel and how it can save you. But most of the New Testament is written to tell those of us who have accepted the Gospel of Christ how to live or lives once we have accepted Christ.

What is the Fact of the Gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³ For I delivered to you ³as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

What scriptures is Paul referring to?

It was the Old Testament scriptures. Christ's **redemption** is foretold in the Old Testament. Christ's **resurrection** is foretold in the Old Testament. We don't know exactly WHICH scriptures he used, but there are **any number** of scriptures that he could have used that foretold of the Gospel in the Old Testament.

- Christ died,
- He was buried,
- and He rose again the third day

as the scriptures in the Old Testament said He would do. He was the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament. **That is the FACT of the Gospel.**

The FAITH of the Gospel emanates from that. **The Faith of the Gospel** is everything...

- that we are
- that we believe
- that we practice
- that we do

which STARTED with our RECEIVING of the Christ of the Gospel.

We are experiencing an earthly life, but The Faith of the Gospel is revealed to us through God's Word and the Holy Spirit in our life. The Faith of the Gospel is a lens through which we look at this world.

When Paul is talking about the **Faith of the Gospel**, he is talking about those who have a manner of life that originated from Heaven and it was communicated to us from Heaven. It is about our Heavenly kingdom that we are citizens of. Therefore everything about our life is completely different than the lives of them that have an earthly kingdom, an earthly purpose, and an earthly reason for living.

Those who have been redeemed are living in a heavenly community, if you will, within an earthly environment.

What is Philippians 1:27 trying to tell us today?

Listen carefully to what Paul said the church should be striving in union to do?

Should it be striving in union for the FACT of the Gospel? Not that only! We should be striving in union for the **Faith of the Gospel** which emulates from the **Fact of the Gospel**.

What this scripture is **NOT** saying is that all that matters is the Gospel. We hear that a lot today! The Faith of the Gospel mattered a lot to Paul, and it should matter a lot to us today.

I would like to reread a very convicting verse from last week's message.

Luke 6:46-49

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴⁶ **“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?** ⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and ^[a]**acts** on them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who ^[b]dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the ^[c]torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who has heard and **has not acted accordingly**, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the ^[d]torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.”

How many times do we hear on the radio, if you believe what I am telling you, just pray the sinners prayer with me and you will be saved? How many people believe that since they prayed the sinner's prayer or have been immersed in baptism they are saved?

What a tragedy! Salvation is not a onetime act in our life!

As a church, we must be preaching more than just the **fact of the Gospel**, but also the **Faith of the Gospel!**

It has to do with

- our Church

- our Worship
- our Finances
- our Family
- our Home
- our Personal Life
- our Lifestyle
- our Entertainment

everything that pertains to us as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven in this earthly world.

II. Remain True to God's Word.

²⁸ in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God.

There is a common fallacy among the churches today. That fallacy is “That it is all about the Gospel”. All kinds of **compromise** can come into the church under that false statement. It **is** about the Gospel, but it is about a whole lot more than just the Gospel.

The Bible requires that we preach the whole counsel of God. The faith of the Gospel is the life and practice that originates from the Gospel. The Lord wants us to be right and compatible with the Gospel.

Luke 18:8b

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

when the Son of Man comes, will He find ^{la}faith on the earth?”

Jesus does not say, “Will he find the Gospel?” It asks “Will he find the faith on the earth?”

What is this question all about? It is the entire compass about what the church is all about.

- Will he find missionary mindedness in the church?
- Will he find Kingdom mindedness in the church?
- Will he find a church correctly dividing the word of God?
- Will he find a moral church?
- Will he find Christians who are not ashamed of God?
- Or, will he find a church that has surrendered so many aspects of the church, that it no longer resembles His church?
- Will the church be teaching the truths of adultery, homosexuality, unfaithful marriages, and many other worldly lusts?

I am afraid that if Christ returns soon, before a worldwide revival occurs within our churches, that He will find many groups of people that no longer resemble His church.

Verse 27 says that we should be standing firm and striving together in one mind for the **Faith of the Gospel**. You don't keep moving and surrendering to the enemy, that which belongs to GOD!

If the government were to come to the churches and say that we must be tolerant of worldly lusts or lose all of our funding. Or even worse, be persecuted or killed for it, would this be a hill to stand on? YES!!!

Verse 29 says that we are not only to believe in Christ, but we must also suffer for His sake when necessary to stand up to the whole counsel of God.

Any Bible truth is a **HILL to DIE ON because it is an eternal, objective, God-given TRUTH.**

- There are some things worse than dying.
- There are some things worse than the church being small when preaching the truth is not tolerated.
- It is far worse to deny Jesus Christ.
- It is far worse to compromise the Faith of the Gospel.

That is what this passage is talking about. Stand firm on the Word of God and strive together to **LIVE** it. Be willing to Die on the Hill for the Faith of the Gospel.

Churches that are always moving in the **direction of the culture** and in the **direction of government mandates** that **require** that you **betray Christ and His Word** may get a lot of people to come to the church. But, they are of no value to God's kingdom. They are worthless and are not doing anybody any good. In fact they are doing a lot of harm because they are abandoning God's truth.

We are here to put God's perspective to the world. If we water it down, what value is that to God? This is salt that has lost its savor.

This is what happens when the churches just preach the FACT of the Gospel. This is the type of concessions you make if you believe we are just all about the Gospel.

Our message must be **"Thus sayeth the Lord, this is what the Bible says."**

Galatians 1:6-10

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Perversion of the Gospel

⁶I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you ^{6a}by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; ⁷ which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel ^{8a}contrary to

what we have preached to you, he is to be ^[c]accursed! ⁹ As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel ^[d]contrary to what you received, he is to be ^[c]accursed!

¹⁰ For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

Philippians 3:20

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁰ For our ^[a]citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

These passages are talking about a manner of life that is worthy or a new citizenship that we were put into when we were saved.

ILLUSTRATION:

Citizens of every country has laws, rules, and regulations that guide that country. We as citizens of the kingdom of God are under regulations that are befitting to citizens of the kingdom.

1 Timothy 1:8-11

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁸ But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers ¹⁰ ^[a]and ^[b]immoral men ^[c]and homosexuals ^[d]and kidnappers ^[e]and liars ^[f]and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, ¹¹ according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

Paul is telling Timothy that the law was put together for the lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane. These are rules and regulations if you will to the kingdom of God. But, the laws do not end with the specific acts listed; it also includes whatever is contrary to the teaching of God's Word.

The good news is that God has provided his Word, so we can know how we are to live for Him. We must "wrestle" for the Faith of the Gospel. If we do not stand firm and strive together, we will not keep it.

III. Preach the Full Counsel of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:4

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who ^lexamines our hearts.

Think of the amazing privilege of being entrusted to speak the Gospel. Christ ascended to the right hand side of God and He left us here to tell the world about what He did while He was here.

- That He was here in human flesh.
- That He lived a sinless life.
- That He died as an innocent victim on the cross for sinners like us to give us His righteousness.
- That He rose again on the third day for our justification and of evidence of His Deity.
- That He was able to perform everything that was promised while He was here on this earth.

WOW!

We are trusted with something, so precious and so valuable. It is the good news of the saving Gospel.

Paul says, “As I have been entrusted with the Gospel, even so I speak”. When he speaks of the Gospel, he does it in a way that is befitting of the sacred Gospel. There is nothing like it on the earth and God has trusted US with it.

When we speak the Gospel, we should speak it in a way that is befitting of it. When we sing, we should sing to God in a way that is befitting to the message.

I worry about how churches today are trying to use rap and rock music to worship God. Should not our music be to glorify God instead of pleasing men? Should not our music be thought to be different from the world’s music?

Paul was worried that his speech should not be done to please men. We should have that same concern.

CONCLUSION:

As citizens of the kingdom of God, a Gospel directed behavior flowing out of the Gospel is essential to our Lord and to our success as believers.

ILLUSTRATION:

A pastor from Oregon became intrigued about some seals that lived on a coast near him. He said they are air breathing animals that come to land to bear their young. They are far more at home in the water. As swimmers they are graceful, playful, and powerful, but on land they are clumsy and awkward. Sometimes it seems that they are neither mammal nor fish. They seem like a miserable concoction that was put together by a committee. Even though they are masterful swimmers, it does not seem to be inherent in their nature. They are born on the rocks and they are taught to swim by their parents. They are

taught to live in a world that is so much different than the world in which they were born.

This is important for us. While we were born in the natural world, we were destined to live in the spiritual world. Our time on the land is short. The majority of our life will be lived in the sea of God's kingdom. We were not born with an inherent ability to relate to or respond to that heavenly world. We have to be taught. Everything in God's world is foreign to us. Though we may have strong desires for holiness, we must stay on the rock until someone teaches us how to swim. That has become the work of the Holy Spirit. He gently leads us from our natural world to His supernatural world. When He first encourages us to lumber from our rocks into the water, we feel more comfortable in our awkwardness than in His Ocean of love because we have not yet learned how to swim. But we shall learn. We will learn how to be in this world, but not of it. We will learn freedom in God's presence and will learn to skillfully swim in the Oceans of His pleasures. It won't be learned in one easy lesson. It will not be without a struggle. Sanctification moved us off the rocks from which we were born and into the Ocean for which we were prepared, but the transition is a struggle. After swimming so effortlessly, it is now painful for me when I have to come back to the rocks again.

What is the lesson for us?

It is simply this...we must prayerfully and Biblically seek God's wisdom so we can make the correct decisions in our life. Then, as like minded Christians, we can fulfill the last part of verse 27 **that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one ^[a]mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

If you have not accepted Christ as your savior, the Gospel is clear.

- Christ has ascended to the right hand side of God
- He was here in human flesh.
- He lived a sinless life.
- He died as an innocent victim on the cross for sinners like us to give us His righteousness.
- He rose again on the third day for our justification and of evidence of His Deity.
- He was able to perform everything that was promised while He was here on this earth.

We are also here with open arms, if you would like to identify yourself as part of this family of God in the Greenwood Christian church.

The Family of God

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.