

“One Mission”
Philippians 1:27

Take Off: Dismiss.. Parents, Escort. Page 980 Pray?

Read Philippians 1:27-30

These verse have always been foundational to Redemption Hill Church... So I thought I would invite you on a trip down memory lane. Story... Major City. Red Sox. Boston it is! When we were preparing to come to Boston, God send us with a team.

Prayer Card story... One Mission...

Here's why...

1. There is a chief aim, a supreme goal: that all we do is done “for the faith of the gospel.”
2. It takes work, shall we say hard work, to see the goal advance.
3. This work must be done together. Side by side. One spirit. One mind. United in the mission

That's the way it's always been and that's how it should always be...

The Point: Jesus people live worthy of Jesus united as one.

Read 1:27-30

How?

I. Live worthy of Jesus by standing and striving side by side (1:27)

- In the Greek text, vv. 27-30 is one sentence, maybe we could call Paul verbose, maybe, but in this one sentence there is one main verb: “LIVE!” Translated out as “let your manner of life be...”
- But the first word should grab our attention. “Only let...” This is what is essential.
- My mentor summed up his (Philosophy of life in 10 words or less): “All that matters in life is that you please Christ.” Or we could go 4 words: “to live is Christ.”
- The idea of citizenship is loaded into verb Paul uses to encourage them to live worthy.
Politeuesthai Why would Paul use this term?
 - He probably uses it because of their pride as a Roman colony.
 - They enjoyed Roman citizenship and all the accompanying privileges and protections. Now you belong to God's city.
 - Maybe there's something here for us in Boston. We love our city... As the movie *Patriot's Day* depicts, we are Boston strong, a tough, strong, thriving city. Our influence touches the world like few other cities in the world. I love being a Bostonian. I know I've only been here for about 6-7 years, but “This is our city.” [Big papi, radio version.]

Philippians 1.27-30. One Mission

- We have a great city, but we belong to a greater city whose builder and architect is God himself (see Hebrews).
- Paul probably also employed the picture of citizenship, because of the essence of a city.
 - Cities, like our city, are dense and diverse. Can you imagine the city of Boston as it stands today with a population of 1? Visualize that... Crazy thought. Cities are thousands and hundreds of thousands and millions of people locked into the fabric of one another's lives. Woven together. Not Independent, but interdependent.
- So, live as citizens together, dwelling as the city of God within the city of man.

And Live Worthy...

- By how we live, we want to reflect the pristine character of the gospel. That's living worthy.
- By how we live, we seek to give Jesus a good name. That's living worthy.
- Think about it: We now bear his name. We belong to Christ. So we do *all that we can do* to honor his name. We do *all that we can do* to avoid bringing shame to his name. No matter where we are and what we're doing, every moment our lives "make a statement" about the gospel.
- Experi: Think about "your manner of life." What comes to mind when people think about you? If someone were to write down three words that immediately come to mind when they think about you, what would they be? Sobering idea, really. Would those words be worthy of Jesus?

{P} Pause: Let's be clear. To live worthy of the gospel implies we have experienced the gospel. God has drawn us into his story, not in isolation, but with others who share this belief that Jesus is the way to escape the judgment of God we deserve and experience the life God desires to give us.

T: Man, Tanner, I want to live worthy of Jesus. How can I... how can we, do that? Live in harmony together. Be united as you live for Christ. He begins with two images.

1. By standing firm in one spirit
 - This is the picture of a soldier in the military — "Not budging one inch from his post." (!!)
 - What happens if we budge? Peoples lives are at risk... including our own.
 - War is a reality we hope to avoid in the physical realm, but it is unavoidable in the spiritual realm. We are in a war. We can't see it with our physical eyes, but our enemy is real. Jesus spoke of it numerous times, and so did his representatives, like Paul.
 - We must resist our common enemy together.
 - Defensive posture.
 - Paul gives instructions like a Commanding Officer here, but in the next phrase, he sounds more like a coach talking to his team.
2. Striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.
 - "Striving ("working, contending, laboring,") side by side"...

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- Pic: *Synathleo* (you hear the word *athleo*, from which we get our word athlete)
- Standing firm provides a defensive picture, but striving side by side reveals an offensive posture.

- Some of you know I build a deck last summer. [PIC - DECK] Ok, my friends built a deck, I watched, learned and helped. Do you know how long it would have taken me to build my deck on my own? My whole life! [[On my own, I would have destroyed my home and my marriage (just playing - our love is rugged, tough, can't be wrecked buy a DIY project).]]
- When we lock arms, there is greater progress and strength and security.
 - Even the great Tom Brady will not handle the falcons by himself. He needs Edleman, and Blount, and Hightower, best Jonathan Jones (Special Teamer); Aldon Roberts (rookie LB; backup; 6th round, last round; considered too small, my height - 5'11"; plays about 1/3 of the downs; one of the most impactful rookies this year); Ted Karras (O-Line).
- The Christian life is side by side, not side by self: **Who's beside you? Who are you walking with?**

- We can't do this solo... This is why we've identified two of [Vision Card] 4 Story Changing Steps for the beginning of this year to be "connecting with a Group" and "serving with a team."
 - Steps change stories.
 - 2) Energize our Sunday experience by serving with a team (1x/month)
 - Expound...
 - 3) Connect with a Group for mutual encouragement in community (3x/month)
 - Expound...

- We do this "for the faith of the gospel."
 - This seems to be a robust way of saying, that the faith of the gospel might advance in us and through us.
 - We do this so that God might continue to make us live worthy of the gospel (27) and that more people might know the faith of the gospel as we tell them. Gospel. Community. Mission.
 - The context of Philippians 1 provides strong support to that understanding.

T: These two images of standing firm and striving side by side are not images of Complacency but Urgency, not mediocrity but vision and triumph. And it is with this attitude translating into action that Paul continues in vv.28-30 and says...

II. Live worthy without fear for salvation follows suffering (1:28-30).

Read 1:28-30

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.]

- Focus on that first phrase: “not frightened in anything by your opponents.” Their opponents thought they were fools. You believe a man was God? You believe that man rose from the dead? You believe that he is the true King of the World? That will get you killed around here in Caesar’s land.
- But Paul is saying, you don’t have to fear, you don’t have to be intimidated, you don’t have to back down, you can display “a certain kind of bravado” (Hawthorne), you can be unfazed by threat.
- Why? Because “to live is Christ, to die is gain.” When a person makes it the logic of their lives, that person is truly unstoppable.

T: Paul had plenty of opponents.

- Read — ACTS 16:16-24
- After these experiences, how could Paul say to them... “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,” (Philippians 1:29)
- What Paul? Granted to us to believe (I’m cool with that - faith is a gift), but Suffering! Granted! Suffering, a gift?! Are you serious?!?
- Paul is saying, Suffering is a gift because suffering affords an opportunity to show the world your devotion to and love for Jesus.

The earliest followers who Paul persecuted also had plenty of opponents.

- **“and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.” (Acts 5:40)**
- Then what? Consider the scenarios... A little sore here, not a lot of fun. Maybe it is time to be quiet. OR God, how could you let this happen? This is not what I had in mind when I said “I’m in” with Jesus.
- Do you know how they responded “to suffering for his sake”?
- **“Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus. (Acts 5:41-42)**

We too will face opposition.

- Don’t be surprised when your irresistible invite is resisted, with a little condescension or cutting remark tossed in for free.
- Christianity is becoming a marginalized minority in some parts of our country, and yet these times, historically, have been when the gospel flourishes. May it be so in our day.

When resisted, be resilient!

- God is with us. We win in the end, and it points people to the veracity of the gospel.
- Somebody thought I skipped the end of 28. Anybody catch that? *“This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.”*
 - Signs point to a greater reality.
 - Look at this. When you stand firm and strive side by side, fearless in the face of trouble, you show people who provide those condescending remarks or mock you for your faith, you show them there must be something beyond what they can see driving this.
- The way of Jesus is always the Cross before the crown. We will experience some trouble, some suffering, but it’s all a tiny precursor to the forever salvation will experience in him and with him.

TRANS. — We should pray these words for one another. We should ask God to make us united in the one mission he has set before us as we follow Jesus.

Read Philippians 1:27 again

Bring it Home:

Last week we introduced our 2017 Vision... - Disc. Strategy - first step focus (12 Irresistible invites)

Check out the other side of your 2017 Vision Card.

In 2017, Because we know... Steps change Stories, we want to see each person who calls Redemption Hill their church take some bold steps by extending...

12 Irresistible Invites into the story of Jesus through Redemption Hill.

How is that going to happen? Each one of us is going to present one, compelling, meaningful, and personal invite each month within their relational networks. We all have friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, family who are not fully connected into the story of Jesus or connecting to a Jesus loving church.

You say, Well, what am I inviting them to? Take your pick. Sure, for most people, Sunday is their first real preview of who we are as a church BUT... you don’t have to give all twelve irresistible invites to our Sunday experience. It might be a Serve Medford event, a Connecting event, a Group, or you inviting them into your life and sharing the story of Jesus.

Consider this: When we get about this TOGETHER... roughly 2,100 collective invitations will cover our city!

Will our invitations be ignorable or irresistible?

12 Irresistible Invitations

1. **Personal**
2. **Meaningful**
3. **Compelling**
4. **Courageous**
5. **Loving**

If I were just sitting around talking to a few friends, I'd say: this is normal Christianity. If 3 is an incredible step for you, or 6, go... but let's recognize - inviting others to follow Jesus is the essence of Christianity. Not secondary. Not tertiary. Primary. Paramount. Of first importance.

So, normal Christianity is saying... invitation is just part of life. We are invited, through the invitation of Jesus (follow me and I'll show you not how to catch people. - Right those fishermen, he knew how to speak their language. You won't be bringing fish into your boat; you'll be bringing people into God's kingdom. People Gotta eat, but there is a deeper and more fundamental need we have than food, that being a relationship with God.

When we get this... and say with Paul - "to live is Christ," then we can expect God to use us to bring his change to others.

- **"And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:47)**
- **"more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women," (5:14)**
- **"the number of the disciples multiplied greatly..." (6:7)**
- **"But the word of God increased and multiplied." (Acts 12:24)**
- **"So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily." (16:5)**
- **"So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily." (19:20)**

To tell Stories we've never told, we need to take steps we've never taken.

It's already happening... I got texts and messages and had conversations throughout the week!

Are you in with this 2017 vision? If so, you are saying: **"With God's power at work in me...**

I will seek to extend 12 irresistible invites into the story of Jesus through Redemption Hill."

Give direction to Commitment time. Own the vision.. Map. Stickers...