**Studies in Philippians**

**Review**

1. Paul’s encouragement to the church – 1: 1 -11

Focal truth: God works through the church to accomplish His purpose of salvation in Jesus Christ

1. Paul’s report to the church – 1:12 -20

Focal truth: God uses all the circumstances in the believer’s life for the progress of the gospel

1. Paul’s confidence in living or dying for Christ – 1:21 -26

Focal truth: Believer’s live for Christ in this world & die to be with Christ in heaven

**Philippians 1:27 -30**

**Focal Truth: Believer’s must live a life that honors the gospel of Jesus Christ**

**Observations:**

1. **The church must conduct herself in a manner worthy of the gospel that saved them 1:27**
2. Christian conduct = to live as a citizen, to live by the laws of your country

Phil. 3:20 – For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

Eph. 2:18 -19 – for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household

Col. 3:1 – Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God

1. Christians are citizens of the kingdom of God

Heb. 11:10 – He was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God

Heb. 11:13 -16 - all these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen and welcomed them from a distance and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country which they left, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

Heb. 12:22 – but you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem…

Heb. 13:14 – for here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.

1. **The church honors the gospel by standing firm in one spirit & one mind 1:27**
2. Christians stand firm while in this world

Stand firm = standing your ground

1. Christians stand firm together in one spirit

One spirit = feeling the same way, thinking the same way, desiring the same way, deciding the same way

1. Christians stand firm together in oneness of spirit & mind

1 Cor. 16:13 – be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong

Eph. 6:11 – 14 – finally be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. There take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having belted your waist with the truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness…

1. **The church honors the gospel by striving together for the faith of the gospel 1:27**
2. The church is striving for the gospel in this world

Striving = fighting together – to fight together in a common cause

Phil. 4:3 – I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life

Rom.15:30 – strive together with me in your prayers to God for me…

1 Tim. 4: 8 – 10 – but godliness is beneficial for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come…for it is for this we labor and strive, because we have set our hope on the living God, who is Savior of all mankind, especially of believers

1. **The church honors the gospel by fearlessly standing against opposition to the gospel 1:28**
2. The church is fearless against gospel opposition

2 Tim. 1:7 – for God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power, love and discipline

Acts 18:9 – The Lord said to Paul do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent

Heb. 13: 5-6 – make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have, for He Himself has said, I will never desert you, nor will I ever abandon you, the Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid, what will man do to me?

1. **The church honors the gospel by suffering for the sake of the gospel 1:29 – 30**
2. The church is granted by God the honor of suffering for the gospel
3. Suffer = experiences of painful feelings
4. 1 Pet. 2:21 – for you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you would follow in His steps

**Things to Remember**

1. The believer’s citizenship in heaven comes with all the rights and privileges of salvation in Jesus Christ
2. Heavenly citizenship is granted by salvation in Jesus Christ
3. Heavenly citizenship is eternal & can never be revoked!
4. Believers in Christ have exchanged their earthly citizenship for their heavenly one!
5. How honorable of the gospel when the church is of one spirit & mind!
6. When God’s church fights together for the gospel there is progress
7. Nothing is more powerful than a fearless church in an intimidating world!
8. The church suffers for sake of those who hate the gospel

**Daily Use**

1. Are you living worthy of the gospel?