

A Life Worthy of the Gospel

Philippians 1:27-28

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. NKJV

In the movie Saving Private Ryan the movie closes with an old man standing beside of the grave of a man who along with several others had the mission of saving private Ryan's life so that he could return home since his three brothers had all died in battle. The man in the grave had told Ryan, as he was dying, "Earn this, earn it." Ryan as an old man turns to his wife for approval. Did I live a good life? he says.

- I. Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ,
 - A. Philippians 2:15-16 (NKJV) 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.
 - B. Politeuomai (conduct) is the main verb in verses 27-30, which in the Greek is a single sentence. It comes from the root word polis (city), which in earlier times usually referred to the city-states to which inhabitants gave their primary allegiance. The verb carries the basic meaning of being a citizen. But, by implication, it means being a good citizen, one whose conduct brings honor to the political body to whom one belongs.
 - C. Philippi had the distinction of being a Roman colony (Acts 16:12), a highly privileged status that gave its inhabitants many of the rights enjoyed by citizens of Rome itself. Such colonies considered themselves "little Romes" and took great pride in that association. They gave unqualified allegiance to Rome and to the emperor, adopted Roman dress and Roman names, and spoke Latin, the official language of Rome. MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Philippians.
 - D. But it is not as with those Greek cities. For we are what we are because of Jesus Christ.
 1. Colossians 1:12-13 (NKJV) 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
 - E. So that whether
 1. I come and see you
 2. or am absent,

- F. I may hear of your affairs,
- II. That you stand fast in one spirit
 - A. One
- III. With one mind
- IV. Striving together for the faith of the gospel,
- V. And not in any way terrified by your adversaries,
 - A. Which is to them a proof of perdition
 - 1. Destruction, the adversaries' perdition.
 - B. But to you of salvation,
 - 1. And that from God.
 - 2. To Him be glory for all that we have and are.
 - 3. He only is to be praised, and not ourselves.