

Tomorrow is Memorial Day. It is the day in which we remember those who have given up their lives in the defense of and protection of that which we have deemed to be worthy of protection: life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness? I would encourage us all to use this holiday for its intended purpose and reflect upon the full measure of devotion that many before us have given so that we can worship without fear of physical harm in this country, and use it also to remember those brothers and sisters whose lives are threatened this morning because they worship our Savior and their measure of devotion may be poured out today.

I think that most of us live in a bubble of ignorance that either willfully or foolishly believes that we are in peacetime in this life. We act as if there is no enemy, no threat, no reason to intently gaze from the watchtowers. But, brothers and sisters, we are in a war. And I don't mean to frighten or stir up unnecessary angst, but I do mean to call us to arms, to raise the alarm, and to sound the battle cry so that we will lock arms and defend the ground which Christ died to purchase. The gospel of Jesus Christ is under attack, and I fear that the enemy's propaganda of ease, power, and false-peace has sucked the motivation to fight right out of the Church. It is time to wake up from our laziness and our dumb inability to discern the true gospel from the false, the honor of our King from the propaganda of the world! This is an eternal battle for the glory of the King whose name and blood are being defamed by the poison of smooth sounding lies to which the Church has listened too long and has stopped dreaming of attempting anything great or small for the sake of the gospel.

This is a battle cry to live a life worthy of the gospel which we have received, of a King who died to deliver from evil, and of the God whose blinding light of holiness will one day sweep over this land and purge us from all that is unworthy of His name and consummate His Kingdom with holy fire. Because on that day we will not remember great politicians, amazing actors, or incredible athletes. Our stories told around the feasting table will not be about unemployment rates or Super Bowls or even the valiant sacrifices of men for man's sake. Jesus will be our hero and His saints will be our crown. On that day we will remember those who gave their lives in the defense of the gospel and for the glory of Christ with great honor and reverence, with joy and admiration; Those who poured out their lives for His glory and so that all might know and worship Him. We will tell the stories of His greatness and His deeds of heroism and sacrifice; of how He emptied Himself and took the form of a Servant to save us; of how Jesus showed us the infinite value of Himself, the glorious gift of Himself. His mercy and His goodness will shine forth and light our city and all the petty wastings of this life will be forgotten. These are the memorable things, the eternally memorable things. Let us turn away from wasting our lives on lesser things and set our faces like flint for the glorious, the Christ-exalting, Cross-boasting, God-honoring defense of the gospel. And let us do it together with one mind, one purpose, locked together as one Kingdom with One King. Let us remember the King and open up the gates for His return. And today, right now, let us live our lives in the light of that day, tenaciously living lives worthy of the great and glorious gospel of Jesus.

## 1. Live Your Public Life Worthily of the Gospel of Christ

- a. Paul begins this sentence with "only" to emphasize the importance of the following statement in the light of the previous statements
  - i. To live is Christ to die is gain
  - ii. His purpose in living Christ is see Christ formed in them
  - iii. So, the point of the following has to do with their benefit in the gospel
- b. Let your manner of life be worthy
  - i. imperative
    1. It is a command, not a description or suggestion
    2. We are commanded to live our public lives in a way that is consistent with the gospel of Christ and that exemplifies the gospel of Christ
  - ii. "manner of life"
    1. from a word entailing living all of one's life, or manner of living, from the root "citizenship"

- a. implies "public life" or "city living"
      - i. the Philippians were proud of their Roman citizenship, so they acted like Romans
      - ii. Paul is saying: You are citizens of Heaven, so act like it
      - iii. the manner of life of Heaven: the gospel of the Christ
- iii. be worthy
  - 1. in a manner consistent with
    - a. Comparable in value and essence
    - b. Romans 8:18 – sufferings of this world are not “worthy” to be compared with our future glory to be revealed
    - c. Colossians 1:10 – walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in each good work, increasing in the knowledge of God.
  - 2. having the honor due to
    - a. the Greco-Roman world was connected by honor
    - b. 1 Thess 2:11-12 – worthy of the God who called you into His own kingdom and glory
    - c. Eph 4:1 – walk in a manner worthy of the calling that you have received
- c. of the gospel of Christ
  - i. interestingly, we are to live worthy of the *gospel* of Christ, in the light of the good news of Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, ascension and all that the Bible tells us it means
    - 1. Most people can agree with “live a life worthy of God” because “God” is an amorphous term that has become individually definable
    - 2. But “the gospel of the Christ” has a much more defined nature that dictates what it means to live
      - a. The GLORY OF GOD in the FACE OF JESUS CHRIST
        - i. All of history is about revealing His glory, showing His nature and beauty
        - ii. Everything else is going to melt away by the holy fire of His presence
      - b. Call to repent and believe, follow and obey, love and live like Him
  - ii. the gospel is the standard, the center, of how to live
    - 1. more "moral" than the legalists
      - a. living lives of holiness, according to the standard of God’s Holy Word
      - b. “blameless” lives *out of love for our Savior from sin*
    - 2. more "grace-filled" than the liberals
      - a. full of grace and truth, patient, kind, benevolent
      - b. living lives of self-sacrifice, bold humility, and serving others out of love for Christ and for them
      - c. “filled with compassion” because we, too, are sinners
  - iii. this "good news" consists of "the Christ"
    - 1. sinners need a Savior from death/judgment
      - a. living lives that acknowledge and contend with sin and its disastrous effects
      - b. the root of all of our social evils, psychological brokenness, emotional duress, and relational depravity is the root sin of idolatrous affections which result in our enslavement
    - 2. God has sent His Son to save us from death
      - a. Living lives that proclaim and rejoice in the great news that God has dealt with sin by His Son’s blood

- b. Hopeful living, proclamatory living, joyful living, life full of praise to Jesus and exclamations of His glorious gospel
  - iv. This is the Christ, the Son of the Living God
    - 1. He is the LORD
      - a. under His feet are all things
      - b. all things find their "yes" in Him
    - 2. **Every moment, every teaching, every proclamation ought to leave us in awe of Christ, praising Christ, glorying in His power, goodness, love, and holiness**
      - a. Any teaching which leaves us thinking primarily about ourselves and the present or future good of our situation may have missed the mark of being Christ-glorifying
      - b. Living a life worthily of the gospel means that Christ is adored more than my life or my comfort or my ease
      - c. It means that my life is lived so that others would see Jesus, because I am so filled up with the glory of the gospel that I want others to see Jesus and adore Jesus and praise Jesus
    - 3. The gospel always leads me to treasure Jesus more than His blessings, and to find Him as infinitely valuable so that I will sell all things for more of Him
      - a. grace generates godliness
        - i. grateful worship
        - ii. holy living
        - iii. persistent praise
      - b. righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom 14:17)

## 2. The Result of Living Worthily of the Gospel is Reported Unity and Tenacity

- a. Gospel worthy living leads to reports of your life being heard
  - i. SO THAT
    - 1. whether I come and see you
    - 2. I am absent
  - ii. I MIGHT HEAR OF YOU
    - 1. Public living worthily of the gospel sends ripples of news throughout the society, and particularly throughout the Kingdom
    - 2. What do people hear of EBF? Of your particular public living?
  - iii. The report of his people boldly defending the gospel of dependence together is something heard and which Paul looked forward to regardless of where he ended up.
    - 1. Whether he sees it with his own eyes (coming and seeing you), or hears it with his own ears (hearing the things concerning you)
    - 2. He wants to hear of them being unified in their tenacious defense of and work for the gospel of Christ
      - a. Here is the point and purpose of their unity: tenacious defense of the gospel!!
      - b. "side by side" – in a line of defense, locking arms/shields to defend the gospel
- b. Standing Firm - military defense
  - i. In One Spirit - unity of thought/purpose/will
  - ii. In One Mind - repetitive chiasm: unity of purpose
- c. Striving Together - fighting together, tenacity, aggressive

- i. For the Faith of the Gospel
- ii. This unity is not like members of the yachting club or the recovery group, it is the camaraderie of soldiers defending homeland
  - 1. This homeland is the faith of the gospel
  - 2. “Faith” – not worded as only gospel, but particularly the aspect of dependence upon Christ
- iii. “which” most likely relates to this phrase as the sign of destruction for the opposition
  - 1. The faith of the gospel is the sign to opposition that they will be destroyed and to us that we will be saved
  - 2. This sign, faith of the gospel, comes from God
- d. Not Fearing Opposition
  - i. This bold tenacity for the faith of the gospel *together* is somehow related to or contained in what it means to live a life worthy of the gospel
  - ii. The report of this tenacity and fearlessness for the gospel is the result of walking in a manner worthy of the gospel.

“God’s grace means that I can rest assured that I’ll have everything I need to be what he wants me to be and to do what he wants me to do in the situation in which he’s placed me. I’m no longer restricted to the limits of my own strength and wisdom. By his grace, I’ve a new identity and a new potential. I’m a child of God; the risen Christ now lives inside of me. I need no longer fear people or circumstances; I don’t have to feel weak in the face of suffering or temptation, because I no longer rest in the resources of my own ability. I’m in Christ and he’s in me. This new identity gives me new potential as I face the realities of life in this bent and broken world. God’s grace gives me reason to ‘take heart.’”

—Paul David Tripp, *Psalm 27: Take Heart*

### Conclusion: COMMUNION

Our county stops its work tomorrow to remember those who have given the last full measure of devotion to their county, to us. All of humanity knows the importance of remembering. “We will never forget” adorns thousands of posters, t-shirts, and bumper stickers reminding us of 9-11. But Christians have been remembering the King who defeated evil, who triumphed over His enemies through giving up his own life. We remember Him today.

Today, the entire Kingdom stops to remember Jesus. The King won our war by dying in our place. Our King defeated death through paying for my sins against the holy God and rising from the dead. Our King is worthy of more than our admiration: He is worthy of our love. He is the reason that we stand together and fight. It is for His honor and for His renown. It is to never give in to those who desire to reshape Him into an image that belittles His true glory and His true gospel. Let us remember our King and His glorious gospel and set our feet together for firm defense, our minds directed firmly upon His truth and let us pray for the courage to fight hard, to fight together, and to attempt great things for the faith of the gospel. Let us remember Him today by living lives worthy of the King, this King to whom belongs the Kingdom: Jesus, the Christ.