

A close-up photograph of a fountain pen with a wooden barrel and a silver nib, resting on a white piece of paper. Next to the pen is a small glass bottle of ink with a label that includes the word 'INDIAN'.

Worthy of the Gospel

Philippians – A Brief Review

- Paul writes the Philippians from prison
- 3 Major themes in Letter:
 - Joy (16 variations mentioned)
 - Together/unity (16 variations mentioned)
 - The Gospel... The main point
- Last week
 - Paul talks about his immanent deliverance
 - Courage vs. shame
 - “To live is Christ and to die is gain.”
 - Responsible for Paul’s joy

Philippians
1:27-30

Worthy of the Gospel

Philippians 1:27-30

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

Philippians
1:27-30

Worthy of the Gospel

Philippians 1:27-30

²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

*Philippians
1:27-30*

A close-up photograph of a fountain pen with a wooden barrel and a silver nib, resting on a white notepad. Next to the pen is a small glass bottle of ink with a label that includes the word 'Fountain'.

Worthy of the Gospel

Citizens of Heaven

- “Conduct yourselves...” Imagery = citizen
 - Philippi was a Roman colony
- Circumstances do not determine behaviour
 - “Whatever happens...”
 - Blame-shifting: an art in our culture
- What does a citizen of heaven look like?
 - Full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
 - Obedient (Life is Christ), forgiving, generous, others first, humble (Jesus is our example)

Philippians
1:27-30

A close-up photograph of a fountain pen with a wooden barrel and a silver nib, lying diagonally on a piece of cream-colored paper. In the upper left corner, a portion of a glass ink bottle with a label is visible.

Worthy of the Gospel

Citizens of Heaven

"[To have Faith in Christ] means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you." — C.S. Lewis

Philippians

1:27-30

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Worthy of the Gospel

Citizens of Heaven Striving Together

- Athletics imagery of battling together
- We are a team
 - Teams must be unified in purpose and effort
 - Teams need to be on the same page/one voice
 - Teams working together prevent intimidation
- Enemies of a Team
 - Division (enemy's tactic: divide & conquer!)
 - Selfishness (enemy's tactic: me first!)
 - Pride (enemy's tactic: I can do it myself!)

Philippians
1:27-30

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Worthy of the Gospel

Citizens of Heaven Striving Together Suffering... A Gift?

- “Granted to you...” (belief & suffering)
 - Belief is a gift, but is suffering?
 - Some of us are appointed to suffer for Jesus
 - We all have different gifts (the *body of Christ*)
 - Cultural value of equality not biblical
 - God doesn’t have human ideal of fairness
 - Equal in value, but not roles, giftings or plans
 - Itching ears... 2 Tim 4:3

Philippians
1:27-30

Worthy of the Gospel

John 21:15-22

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Philippians
1:27-30

Worthy of the Gospel

John 21:15-22

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

Philippians
1:27-30

Worthy of the Gospel

John 21:15-22

Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

²⁰ Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) ²¹ When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

²² Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”

Philippians
1:27-30

Worthy of the Gospel

Our Call...

- Whatever happens, we need to live as citizens of heaven – worthy of the gospel
- We need each other – we're a team and we're in this thing together
- To accept what God grants us and to stand firm... together!
- YOU must follow ME (words of Jesus)

Philippians
1:27-30