If someone evaluated the Gospel purely based on your daily actions, relationships, and attitudes, what conclusions would they draw about Jesus and Christianity?

Paul emphasizes unity - “one spirit,” “one mind.” Is there a relationship in our church or your CLG where you are failing to strive together? If yes, what is keeping you from true gospel unity with them?

In what settings or circumstances do you feel most tempted to shrink back or compromise? How does this text help you stand firm?

Think about a current trial or hardship you are experiencing for following Christ. How does shifting your perspective to see it as *granted for Christ’s sake* alter your emotional or spiritual response to that trial?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the **joy** set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

APPLICATION

In your daily life, what is the Holy Spirit prompting you to do, or maybe stop doing, so that you are living more worthy of the Gospel?

MEMORY VERSE

“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;” Philippians 1:27

Sermon-Based Study Guide

// November 1, 2026 //

Sermon Series:
A Call to Joy

Paul Herr
Century Baptist Church

When It Comes To Livin’

Philippians 1:27-30

A disciple’s responsibility is to live daily in a way that is worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sermon available at centurybaptist.org/watch/

Community Life Group Sermon-Based Study

// November 1, 2026 //

Our desire and goal is for all who call Century Baptist their church home to be involved in a Community Life Group or Bible study. We believe one of the best ways to be fed and exhorted in our faith is to interact with the Sunday sermon. This guide is designed to facilitate interaction by diving into the Sunday message through the study of Scripture together. If you are not in a group, we encourage you to take the step of involvement in community around your faith and the pursuit of faith in Jesus. While this study guide can be used individually, the greatest benefit of growth comes when people are interacting with each other around Biblical truth.

Contact Pastor Paul Herr at 701.223.0478 to learn more about sermon-based community life groups, and leading or hosting a group.

OPENING UP

How do you respond when given a command by a loved one?

INTRODUCTION to *A Life of Joy* series

The letter to the church in Philippi is one of four written from prison (this time he is under house arrest in Rome) by the Apostle Paul. Founded on his second missionary journey, the Philippian Church was the first church established by Paul in Europe(Acts 16). This letter is a thank you for the kindness and generosity shown by the saints there. "It's usually difficult to capture the essence of a letter in one word, but in the case of Philippians, that one word is *joy*. Paul didn't write to answer any profound theological question, solve some knotty practical problem, or deal with a specific sin. Instead, he wrote to express and encourage joy. In a way, the book of Philippians is a showcase of joy. Like a treasure on display in the center of a gallery, joy can be examined from several angles to better appreciate its brilliance. Each of the four chapters reveals one of the distinct facets of that joy."
[Swindoll, C. R. (2017). Philippians, Colossians, Philemon (Vol. 9, p. 11). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.]

READ Philippians 1:27-30

What was one point or statement from the message that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

What standard of living does Paul have for the Philippian believers?

What does Paul desire to hear about how the Philippians are living, whether or not he is able to be with them in person?

How did Paul tell the Philippians to face opposition?

According to this text, what is included in standing firm?

How is the Philippian saints *standing firm* a sign of destruction for their opponents?

How is that same *standing firm* a sign of salvation for the Philippians?

How did Paul encourage the Christians at Philippi?

What two realities have been granted to believers for Christ's sake?

What value does suffering for Christ's sake provide for the Christian?

How should Jesus' disciples view suffering and conflict?

What is the most difficult thing you have had to experience/endure as a disciple of Jesus?

What are you willing to risk to have the reputation of being a fearless Christian?

What about your life-style do you most want to change in your desire to live for Christ?

What about your life-style do you most need to change in order to live more boldly for Christ?