

## **“Conduct Worthy of the Gospel”**

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Scripture Text: Philippians 1:27-30, ESV

We are at the last part of this great chapter and a great introduction to the Apostle Paul’s love for the church, to his concern for them, to his report as to how he is doing. Now he gets to the meat of his message. This is the theme which will be carried throughout the rest of the letter.

### **To Live Is Christ**

<sup>27</sup> Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup> engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

“Behave!” How many times did we hear our parents say that as we were growing up? We have some children with us this morning, close to the front rows. “Behave!” Have you ever heard your parents say that to you? How many times did we grownups hear our parents that to us? They may have used a different vocabulary, but the central priority for our parenting was to teach our children to behave as responsible, moral, respectful boys and girls.

Sometimes the command to obey, or to behave, was given as a reproof. The boys would be roughhousing and they would need to calm down, “Boys, behave!” Other times the command was just given as a reminder of the godly expectation. We may be getting out of our car to have dinner at a friend’s house and I will look back at my boys and say, “Boys, behave now. Remember.”

In our text, Paul is doing the latter. He is not giving a reproof to this church so much as he is giving a helpful reminder, “Behave! Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ.” I like the Holman Christian Standard Version which says: Just one thing: There is really one thing this letter is all about, that you would live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; that you behave.

The principle this section will bring to us in our study is godly behavior is paramount to the Christian church. Everything about us, our mission, our worship, rests here on our godly behavior. If we do not live what we believe, why would the world believe us when we proclaim Jesus as Savior and Lord? How we live either advances or destroys the message God has given to us. It advances or destroys our influence for Christ in this world.

Paul gets to the heart of his message when he says, “Just one thing: only live your life in a manner worthy of the Gospel. Commit yourselves to behave like people who have been rescued from sin and into righteousness; who have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God’s own Son whom He loves.”

We first see in this passage God’s call to live as worthy citizens of Heaven and that is the first subject we address in this study. It has been awhile since we have been in this letter so let us review the context. Paul, first, lets the church know how much he loves them,

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you...

He wants them to know he loves them and he delights in them. Then Paul communicates how he is doing because the church is wondering if he is still living, how well is he getting along,

<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel...<sup>21</sup> For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

That is what life is all about. Everything is measured in terms of is this advancing the Gospel? Paul is imprisoned in Rome and he is awaiting trial. In that trial he could be condemned to die or he could be liberated. Paul does not know exactly how things are going to turn out, but he believes he is going to be liberated, and he says whether he lives or dies it is all about the Lord.

We hear, sadly, there are people, Christians, in Rome who are jealous of Paul and out of envy they are making Paul's life difficult; they are afflicting him. Yet, they are still proclaiming the Gospel. Their message is true but their heart attitude is way wrong and what is Paul's response,

<sup>18b</sup> Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Isn't that astounding? Paul only cares about God's glory and he comes to this call to live a godly life because he knows the glory of Christ and Christ's reputation in this world rests upon the church's behavior: Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Jesus.

Why is godly living so very important? There are three reasons Scripture gives to us. The first is our present joy in this life. Indeed, disobedience to God brings unnecessary sorrow into our life. If we could just avoid those unnecessary sorrows! Sorrow upon sorrow is brought as a result of sinful attitudes and ungodly behaviors.

Second, godly living is so important because of our future reward in life. Our joy now and for all eternity rests upon our obedience to God and our reflection of Jesus. We forfeit eternal reward when we live according to our natural desires.

Third, and the great reason Scripture provides as to why we commit ourselves to living a godly life is the one Paul sets before us, that God's glory in our life would reflect the wonder and beauty and awesomeness of God Himself in the way we live, that we would reflect the Gospel is real and that it has transformed us, and that it is not a fiction but it is authentic. Paul reminds us to live a life worthy of the Gospel, a life that reflects how good and how glorious and gracious and true and wonderful Jesus is. Our lives are to be the greatest advertisement to this world of the authenticity of Jesus.

What is the Gospel exactly? If we are to live worthy of the Gospel we must know exactly what the Gospel is. The word "Gospel" is a wonderful word and it simply means "good news".

For the past several weeks Pastor Kevin has been teaching out of 2 Corinthians 4. What a wonderful set of sermons Pastor Kevin gave to us. In 2 Corinthians 4, we read,

<sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Paul is telling the church in Corinth, "Here is the good news: you were living in darkness and you could not see God at all. You did not think about Him as being someone you needed to know or wanted to know. Jesus Christ came into this world and through Jesus Christ God shown light into our hearts and we see the glory of God in the face of Jesus. That is what happens when we are born again. That is the good news. We see God!"

The Gospel is God's means by which we see and enjoy the glory of God in the face of Jesus and that is a bold claim, is it not? That is a bold claim to a world that does not know God. The born again believer testifies, "I

enjoy God because through Jesus I see God and I see His glory.” The unbeliever rolls their eyes and says, “Yeah, right!” because they do not see God in the face of Jesus.

Why not? Paul answers that question in that same passage,

<sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

How can we communicate the truth of the glory of God available through the Gospel to a people who cannot see it? First, we proclaim Jesus through our words. Second, we proclaim Jesus through our lives. The transformation of our lives is the clear evidence God establishes for unbelievers to see the authenticity of the Gospel. If we see God’s glory, something will change within us and that something becomes evident to the world around us.

In 2 Corinthians 3, we read,

<sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

When the Gospel comes to us we behold the glory of the Lord. No one encounters the living Christ in the Gospel and is left unchanged. What happens when those who see the glory of God in Christ and they do not live in ways which reflect this transformation? At such a point, the Gospel becomes twisted, distorted, and shaded. Jesus’ reputation is diminished and that is the saddest thing of all to happen in the life of one who knows Jesus as Savior.

The principle we learn is: Christ’s reputation in this world rests upon the church being the church.

Just recently I spoke with a young man who has committed himself to Jesus as Savior and Lord. But, for the past year or more he has had no connection with the local church. The reason he gives is: The church seems to be a shadow, a façade, of the reality he reads in the New Testament. He is not alone. This is a sobering indictment. It is not an excuse and we discussed that because the church is a gift to every believer. Now we must ask, “How am I going to steward that gift?”

It is a sad reality for a young person to say, “I have not been connected here and I recognize now, after a year of not being connected at all to the body of Christ, something is really wrong. But, here is the reason why: I have become discouraged. When I go to church what I see is not what I read.” “Behave! Live in a manner worthy of the Gospel,” Paul says.

The greatest hindrance to the Gospel is not the hostility of the world toward Christ. The greatest hindrance is the inconsistency of the church in living for Christ.

We are going to put our Greek glasses on for a moment so we can see something that is not present in our English translation. The Greek word translated here, “Let your manner of life...” is the word *politeusthai*. We get from that word, the word “politic” meaning city or government, i.e., Indianapolis. The New Living Translation translates this word, which I believe is more accurate,

<sup>27</sup> Above all, you must live as citizens of Heaven...

The idea is we are to live in a manner worthy of the citizenship. It is a citizenship-type word.

I believe Paul intentionally uses this word to the church in Philippi because Philippi is a Roman colony and it took great pride in being a Roman colony. Not every city was a Roman colony in the Roman Empire. Even though Philippi is located eight hundred miles away from Rome, every resident of Philippi was given the privilege of being a Roman citizen.

Citizenship was not given to everyone born in the realm. It was reserved for a special few and the Philippians, because of its history in honoring Rome, were given this privilege of every resident being vested with this great and glorious privilege of being a citizen of Rome and they took great pride in that.

Citizenship offered specific privileges such as lower taxation and legal rights, but more, to the 1st Century person, the 1st Century Roman, citizenship was a call to uphold the dignity of the realm wherever one was; to reflect by one's life how great and glorious Rome is and, particularly, the Emperor is. They knew privilege carried responsibility, so Roman citizens living in Philippi were committed to live in a way which advanced the reputation of Rome to those who did not know how great and glorious Rome was. They lived in specific ways so their customs, the daily conduct of their life, was all influenced by the Roman citizenship.

Paul uses this word, "live in a manner worthy, and one which reflects where your citizenship lies. Allow your customs and your conduct to reflect the glory of your home." In Philippians 3:20, Paul reminds them their citizenship is in Heaven and as proud as they are with their citizenship with Rome, they are to understand there is a deeper reality for them now that they are in Christ. That deeper reality is a Kingdom they are a part of, one which is greater than Rome and a King who is infinitely more glorious than the Emperor Nero. The Kingdom they are a part of is eternal and is awaiting them in Heaven. The King is the Sovereign Ruler over all Creation. His reign is eternal, a forever and ever reign. Paul reminds them to live their lives in a manner that demonstrates the worth of Jesus' as King and one which demonstrates the greatness of the Kingdom to which they belong; "Behave!"

Please understand, the Gospel is not a message which says, "Behave in order to be a part of this Kingdom." No, this citizenship is a free gift from God bestowed upon us. Once we have been given this gift we must live reflecting the gift which is given.

There is a poem I remember hearing when I was a little boy and how appropriate it still is:

You are writing a Gospel  
A chapter each day  
By the deeds that you do  
And the words that you say

Men, read what you write  
Whether fateful or true  
So what is the Gospel  
According to you?

What do people see when they see your life?

Why is living the life worthy of the Gospel so difficult? Why is this such an emphasis for the Apostle Paul? It is because the Devil hates Christ. He hates Christ and he hates His glory and if he can do anything to diminish the glory of Christ in this world he will. He will do anything to dishonor the majestic name of Jesus. He hates to see love within the community of believers, so he sows the seeds of conflict.

This Devil hates to see the redeemed working side-by-side to advance the Gospel of Jesus so he sends worldly distractions our way which keep us from serving Him. This Devil hates to see courageous faith so he roars to intimidate and paralyze us with fears of various kinds.

What behavior communicates the worth of our King? There are three commitments written in our text of worthy citizenship. We can see them because they are so plain for us in the text. **First,**

<sup>27</sup> ...whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are **standing firm in one spirit**...

Second,

<sup>27</sup> ...with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel...

Third,

<sup>28</sup> and not frightened in anything by your opponents.

Those three sum up what it means to live a life worthy of the Gospel.

The word “standing firm” is used to describe a soldier in order, not breaking ranks, though the battle is raging. This soldier stands shoulder-to-shoulder with others in the battalion in the face of strong opposition. Even though the battle is hard around him, this soldier does not give into his fear and he remains committed by standing in line.

In the Roman battalion it was necessary for them to stand shoulder-to-shoulder or else the whole would be lost. They held up huge shields so it formed a roof over the whole group as they marched shoulder-to-shoulder. Arrows would reign in, but because everyone had their shield up there was no place for arrows to penetrate and hurt any of the others. But, what happens, in the midst of that, when someone decides, “I am afraid and I need to get out of here,” and they run for cover. Suddenly their shield opens up a hole in which others become vulnerable. When they get hit they go down and more fall because of that and everything is lost.

So, Paul tells them, “Men and women, stand firm in one spirit. Hold the line together.

Baptists are not known for standing firm in one spirit and I believe the Gospel is diminished for it. My favorite Baptist joke is of the Baptist who went out on a boat and went sailing one day. A big storm came up and blew him off course and blew him onto a deserted island. He was all by himself and no one knew where he was. For ten years he is lost. Finally, a ship comes by and he hails it. The ship’s captain comes out and meet him on land. He hugs the captain and says, “I have been here for ten years. I am so glad you have come to rescue me. But, while you are here let me show you my island.” In the ten years, he was proud of the things he had accomplished.

He shows the captain the well and the grove of fruit trees. He said, “Now I want to show you the building I have built.” There were three buildings along the shore and he said, “The building one the far left is my home.” They toured the home and it was amazing what he was able to do all by himself to provide a comfortable place to live. He said, “The building one the far right is my church. Every Sunday I go there and I worship God.” The captain asks, “What is that building in the middle?” He replied, “Oh, that is the church I used to go to.”

Baptists are not known for standing shoulder-to-shoulder together. A bit of discomfort comes up and we start another church out of conflict and not out of vision. That is a problem and the Gospel of Jesus is diminished because of it. The Apostle Paul tells us to stand firm in one spirit and stand together. The God we worship is a God of peace. The Gospel we affirm is the Gospel of reconciliation. If we do not stand firm together we are denying to the world that God is the God of peace and we are denying to the world the Gospel is the Gospel of reconciliation. Stand firm, beloved!

We are bound together in Jesus and by Jesus for the sake of communicating the Gospel of Jesus. We are not a people who backbite and slander one another because we recognize no one in our community is more worthy of condemnation than we are. That is what the Gospel does in our lives.

When we get to the foot of the cross we look around and say, “There is no one here who is more worthy of condemnation than I. How can I backbite someone when I am sitting at the foot of the cross?”

We are not a people who fight, argue, and divide because we know Jesus has given us to each other as His gift to help us receive more of His grace. To intentionally distance one's self from the weakest in our community is to distance one's self in the grace in Christ we daily need. So, we receive one another as Jesus has received us.

The principle we learn is: We cannot keep our hands open to receive the grace of the Gospel today if our hearts are closed to each other.

In our next study we will look at this more, in Chapter 2, but let me share this beautiful section of Scripture, one I hope you are memorizing. I read this from *The Message*,

<sup>1-4</sup> If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

Are you standing firm in one spirit with others in your local church? There are two obstacles which stand in the way of this. The first is detachment, that is to say we remove ourselves and disconnect and do not have any real, deep relationship with anyone. We are not necessarily at war, but we are, also, not at peace. We do not have *shalom*; we do not have this bond.

The second is conflict. We may relate to many people in the local church but some of those relationships have soured so we close our hearts to those who have hurt us.

The answer to both of these obstacles, detachment and conflict, is the same. It is the Gospel. We need to enter deeper into the Gospel of Jesus.

**The second word Paul gives to us is for us to stride side-by-side for the Gospel,**

<sup>27</sup> Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel...

The word “striving”, with our Greek glasses, is *sunathleo*. We get the word “athlete” from it. *Sun* means “together” and *athleo* means “striving”. This is a word of energy.

When God gives to us His life He places us on a team and He puts us into a new family and a new community. This team has an objective; it has a battle to win. This team is our gift from God to us and we must ask, “How am I stewarding this gift? He has given to me a team to be a part of.” This is a question every believer must ask.

Let me share with you the Bethany Baptist Church mission statement. There is nothing necessarily special about this statement, but it is what we are held to and we believe it comes from Scripture. We did not get this by deciding what we wanted to do or be as a church. We believe this is what God wants us to do and to be. Every team has an objective: what does winning mean; what is the purpose of our church?

“The purpose of our church is to glorify God as we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and prepare His people to worship Him forever.”

When we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, that is the Gospel proclamation and we are to live in such a way which leads to God's glory. We are about proclaiming Jesus Christ and that is not only the church which is apart from us, but that is who we are as a people. God tells us to strive together for the sake of the Gospel.

There is much to do at Bethany Baptist Church in order to accomplish this. But, I want you to know, as members, striving together does not mean we do everything possible for us to do in the body. It means to do everything God's calls us to do.

Some who are very active in our church feel as though it is too much the church is asking to be done. That may be true and we apologize for that, as we follow God's Spirit. It would be wrong for each to get involved in everything this church does within itself, in our community, and in the world. But, striving together says, "What part does God have me to do to link arms with others for the sake of advancing the Gospel because God intends for us to do this together?" Christianity is a team sport; it is not an individual endeavor; "What would God have me to do as I link arms with others in this local church for the sake of His glory?" "How would God have me proclaim the name of Jesus?" "How would He have me prepare others for the sake of worship?"

The church is a team which is victorious only as we work together. Soon we will have the "Taste of Bethany". I encourage each of you to consider, "How can I strive together for the sake of the Gospel?" This is a forceful, laborious, energy kind of work.

I believe one or two ministries is absolutely sufficient. Getting involved in three, four, or five ministries is not a wise thing for a person to be a part of.

Why is teamwork so rare? It is because our pride is so great. My son, Jackson, is in a youth orchestra and he has a conductor by the name of Dr. Block. He was the principle for the San Francisco orchestra decades ago. He was a part of the grand opening of DisneyWorld. At this grand opening, it was decided to have this orchestra comprised of the-best-of-the-best musicians throughout the whole world. Only concert chairs and principles to be a part of and participate in this orchestra at the grand opening of DisneyWorld. All were gathered in New York City and with the conductor, they were going through the first rehearsal. They hit the first note and it was an amazing sound that was heard as others were listening to all of the incredible musicians gathered together for the sake of playing this piece.

All was going incredibly well until, suddenly, the conductor continued conducting, directing, and leading, but the music completely stopped. The conductor looked up and asked, "What just happened? Why did the music stop?" One of the orchestra members raised his hand and said, "Sir, we are all concert masters. We have not turned a page of music in our lives." Until Jackson was in an orchestra, I was unaware it is the second chair, the inferior, who turns the page after one page of music is over. No one turned the page, not in any piece, not in any instrument because they were expecting the other person to do it.

Why is teamwork so hard? It is because of pride. No one wants to turn the page, "I do not want to be in that role." God will deal with that in our next study when we look at Chapter 2, when the Apostle Paul says, "Look at Jesus. It is not a measure of your significance, that you do the grand and glorious thing. Look at Jesus, the most significant being in all the world and He took the form of a servant and He died upon a cross, a curse."

**The last issue is we are to show courage in the face of opposition.** We are to stand firm, together in unity and strive and work hard for the sake of the Gospel. We are to do it together as a team and then show courage in the face of opposition,

<sup>28</sup> and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

The picture is of a bloody battleground. Fear is in the air and death surrounds. Those who engaged in the battle are weighing the cost of standing firm and standing in the battle.

The Greek word used here is an unusual one for fear. It is a word which describes a panicked reaction and the startling of horses into a stampede. We are not to be panicked and we are not to give into our fears. We are to walk by faith. Will this be hard? Will there be tribulation? Yes and yes!

The world's opposition to you as you lift up Jesus, according to Paul, is a sign of their destruction of your salvation. Eternity will show what we are doing is a worthy cost, a worthy battle, and a worthy endeavor. We are to not be afraid because, Paul says, "This is how it is going to end. There will be a Day of Judgment. On that Day of Judgment those who stood with Christ are going to enter into God's glory. Those who stood against Christ are going to be condemned forever and ever."

By the way, beloved, this must make us ask the question, "Where do I stand with Christ? How can I tell right now?" Those who are persecuting us are only giving a side of what will happen to them on that future day. As we stand firm, that is a sign to us that not only does God in Heaven recognize us, that we are on His team, that we are blessed and privileged, but the world around us will see that and that is why they are responding in the way they are. This is a sign of our salvation and it should be a confirmation for us of future glory.

Warren Wiersbe writes, "The Christian life is not a playground, it is a battleground." We must remember that. We can expect there to be some fearful, awful things to happen. In this world we will have tribulation, Jesus tells us.<sup>1</sup>

Paul illustrated that with his life in the Philippian church. What happened to him when he went into Philippi to preach the Gospel? He was beaten and thrown into prison. That is why he says, to the Philippian church, that they are

<sup>30</sup> engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Is there any opposition today as you seek to honor Jesus? I was asking my fifteen year old son, Jackson, "How can I pray for you as you think about the school year?" He said, "Pray I will be able to stand up for Christ."

Kimberly was talking with some of our senior higher students and she asked how she could pray for them. They said, "As we enter school, it is so lonely there for those of us who believe because that is not the world."

Paul tells us, "You will have opposition. Be of good cheer. God has overcome the world. Do not fear. Show courage by clinging to the Strong One, Jesus, through His Word, by His Spirit, in prayer together for the sake of the Gospel."

There are two gifts for the citizens of Heaven. Again, Paul give to us some challenging commands and he says, "Never think of Christianity as a performance, but think of it as an evidence of the transforming grace already at work in you life." We cannot behave apart from the work of God's Spirit. Here are the gifts which give energy and strength to us. It is not a work from our own person, but it is a work God is doing in us.<sup>2</sup> It has been granted to us, grace given freely to us, for the sake of Christ.

**There are two gifts mentioned. First, that we should believe and secondly that we should suffer;** there is the gift of faith and the gift of suffering.

Why does a person believe the Gospel? It is because God give them faith. Satan blinds the mind of unbelievers. Why do we see when there are unbelievers who are yet in darkness and who do not see. Is it because there is some bit of spiritual wisdom inside of us so that we are able to pierce through the darkness? No, there is only one reason I believe and I am no longer blinded by Satan. It is because God gave me faith

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<sup>1</sup> John 16:33

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 2:9

and He opened my heart. He did to me what He did to the Apostle Paul when Paul was on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians.

A beam of light shown down from Heaven, blinding his physical eyes but opening his spiritual eyes. God gave him faith. Salvation is all of God and if we have faith all glory belongs to Him. What do we contribute to our own salvation? We do not contribute good works which merit Heaven. We do not contribute even faith which connects us to Christ.

What do we contribute to our own salvation? We contribute our sin to our salvation. God contributes everything else. It is all of grace and that is why we are a people who sings, so joyfully, “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.”<sup>3</sup>

But, also, there is this gift of suffering. When suffering comes to a Christian, Paul wants us to know it is not a sign of God’s neglect, but it is a sign of God’s favor. Many are confused today by bad theology. They believe obedience must equal comfort and ease in this life. When pain and persecution ensue, many begin to become disillusioned with God and walk away from faith. Paul says, “No, this is a gift of God to help you to greater glory. God will bless you through it. These are two gifts God has given to us for our eternal joy. Receive them.”

If we begin to see suffering as a gift from God it will change everything about us. First, the suffering will actually begin to benefit us for now and for eternity. Also, we will be able to hold onto these other commands Paul will give, when he says,

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Philippians 4:6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without grumbling...

All of these rest upon our understanding this truth: suffering is a gift from God. It is not a sign of His displeasure. It is not a sign He has abandoned us, but it is a sign He loves us.

The principle we learn is: godly behavior is paramount to the Christian church. Citizens of Heaven, let us behave. Let us stand firm in love and in unity. Let us strive together in ministry to proclaim Jesus and to prepare God’s people for worship. Let us show courage in the face of opposition, all the while entering deeper and deeper into the grace of God’s Gospel and His precious gifts to us.

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<sup>3</sup> “Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound,” John Newton, 1725-1807, 1 Chronicles 17:16-17