

The Worthy Life 3

Foundational Verse: 1:27 “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”

Chapter One – Recognize the Ongoing Work of God Inside of Us.

“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...” 1:6

Chapter Two – Recognize the Example Jesus Has Set Before Us.

Key Verse: 2:5 KJV Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus

Chapter Three – Run Like a Champion.

Key Verse: 3:14- I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

3:14-17 NIV I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

15 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. **16** Only let us live up to what we have already attained. **17** Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

3:10 NIV I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death”.

Think of these as the goals of “The Worthy Life”.

Goals of a Champions Life!

People who live a successful Christian life are the ones who:

1. Really know Jesus. (don't just want to know some truth about him)
2. Walk in his resurrection power.
3. Finish Strong (even in the face of suffering. “I want be like him in his death”)

v. 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

v. 13, “... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

v.15 “All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things”.

We are called to be Champions in life!

Romans 8:17 tells us that Jesus loves us so much that he has already made us Champions! "... in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

Phil 3:16 Only let us **live up** to what we have **already attained**.

You are not perfect, Paul was not perfect, he says v. 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

The Goals of a Champion

3:10 NIV I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

1) To Really Know Jesus

"I want to know Christ..."

- a) To know his love.
- b) To know his work.
- c) To know his ways.
- d) Champions know the difference between Jesus and a Religious Spirit.

The phrase "religious spirit" to refer to man-made effort that utilizes works to please God. It is very easy to mistake being religious for having a relationship with God.

Phil 3:2,3 NLT "Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. ³ For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort"

Five Signs of a Religious Spirit

- i) A Religious Spirit tries to earn God's love and favor through works.
- ii) A Religious Spirit is rooted in religious routines instead of being in Christ.
- iii) A Religious Spirit tries to conform to outward holiness without inward transformation.
- iv) A Religious Spirit desires titles, positions, and recognition more than honor from God.
- v) A Religious Spirit is always critical of the lifestyle of others in church and out.

2) To Tap into Resurrection Power

“... to know the power of his resurrection...”

- a) When you got born again you received resurrection life!
 - i) Think of “resurrection life” continual flow of transforming power.
 - ii) Resurrection life has power to make you victorious over that which is killing you.
- b) The Champions Life is one that taps into this power by the Holy Spirit.

“... we are the (true) circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh...” (3:3)

- c) How do I tap into Resurrection Life?

The key is right here in verses 3 “Put no confidence in the flesh...”

- i) “... Serve God by the Spirit...”

(1) I preached a message a few years ago that I titled “Help me Holy Ghost”

(2) John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever.

- (a) The helper will be in you.
- (b) The helper will be with you forever.
- (c) The helper will reveal the truth to you.
- (d) The helper will comfort you in your seasons of struggles.
- (e) The helper will empower you to reach the finish line.

The helper has the power to help you overcome the things that are killing you!

- ii) Follow your Examples.

Phil 3:17 NIV Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

3) To Finish Strong

1 Cor 9:24 NLT Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!

Hebrews 12:1,2 NLT Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ²We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

How can we finish strong? "... strip off every weight that slows you down"

a) Let go of your pride.

3:4,7 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. **7** But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

b) Lessen your value of temporary things.

3:18,19 NLT For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth.

v. 20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives.