



Sermon Questions

January 25th, 2026 | Scripture: Philippians 1:18b-30 – Joyful Courage

Pre-study: 3 things from the sermon. *Write down 3 ideas, illustrations, quotes, or points that made an impression in the sermon.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Core Questions

1. How does the context of an honor and shame culture help us understand why Paul is wrestling with not being put to shame in verse 20 and set the stage for his need for courage in this passage?
2. How does being united with Christ give Paul an honor that can never be taken away from him?
3. How do verses 22-26 show us that “to live is Christ and to die is gain” is not abstract for Paul, but embodied through serving others?
4. What does verse 27 mean when it calls us to live lives worthy of the gospel of Christ?
5. Verses 27-28 shows how rooting our courage in Christ brings unity whilst rooting it elsewhere brings fear and division. How do you see that playing out in your own life or the life of the church today?

Inward Grace in Action

1. Where does the world around us tell us to find courage? How does anchoring our confidence in Jesus empower us to live differently?
2. How is courage a resource that helps us invest in the lives of others for the sake of the gospel?

Outward Grace in Action

1. Where do you, your family, or your CG need the Lord to give you courage to honor him at home, at work, or in the community right now?

For Families: Ideas of how to keep the conversation going at home, in the car, or around the dinner table:

1. **A - Ask about the message:** Ask your children who or what they look to for courage when they are scared, anxious, or troubled (like before a test, at bedtime, when they are away on a trip.)
2. **S – Share your thoughts:** Share how Jesus being with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit gives us courage in our time of need. Explain how prayer, reading God’s word, and surrounding ourselves with other Christians helps to remind us that Jesus is near and will encourage our hearts.
3. **K – Keep it going:** Take time to memorize Psalm 27:1 before bed each night this week – as it serves as a short but powerful reminder of God’s presence with us in our time of need.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these passages that trace the theme of courage throughout the scriptures:

- Exodus 3:7-12
- Joshua 1:1-9
- 1 Samuel 17:41-47
- John 16:25-33
- Acts 4:23-31
- 2 Timothy 1:3-7

Scripture Memory Challenge:

*During this sermon series, our challenge to you and your CG is to memorize **Philippians 2:5-11**. This is the heart of the entire letter that will equip our hearts to live with resilient joy.*

Serve: If 11:15am is your regular service time, please prayerfully consider how you might serve with us on Sunday mornings. Do you enjoy welcoming others into our church home? Consider serving as an usher at the Fellowship Hall! Perhaps you prefer a more behind the scenes role. Serve on our hospitality clean-up crew! Wherever your giftings are or how often you're available to help out, we'd like to find a place for you. Contact aguinntaylor@mcleanpres.org to begin serving!

Look Ahead: Next week we will continue in our sermon series on the book of Philippians. The scripture passage will be Philippians 2:1-11 where we will see how the Apostle Paul calls us to live in joyful humility.