

# CONDUCT WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL (Philippians 1:27-30)

By Paul T. Butler — OBC Chapel, 10-23-80

## INTRODUCTION

### I. THE PHILIPPIAN CHRISTIANS

A. Lived in a city that had an illustrious history and a great heritage of citizenship—first in the Greek empire and later in the Roman empire.

1. About 100 years previous to Paul's letter, Mark Antony and Octavian (Augustus) fought for control of the Rome empire there.
2. Philippi had been given Roman citizenship and was proud of it.
3. Roman colonies were little bits of Rome planted throughout the world. In Roman colonies the Roman citizens never forgot that they were Romans. They spoke the Latin language, wore the Latin dress, called their magistrates by the Latin names, insisted on being stubbornly Roman, however for they might be from Rome. . . . Barclay
4. Tenney states that many retired Roman army officers lived in Philippi.
5. There was a school of medicine there. Many think Luke was a native of Philippi. There seems to be a touch of native pride when Luke calls Philippi "a city of Macedonia, the first of the district" (Acts 16:12).
6. They knew about the idea of pride in citizenship.

B. Were members of the *first* European church Paul had founded

1. This church had to endure persecution from the very beginning.
2. Paul and the Christians there were accused of subversive actions.
3. They were attacked by a mob, ordered to be beaten with many blows after which they were imprisoned and placed in stocks.
4. It was here Paul insisted on his rights as a Roman citizen and made the magistrates who imprisoned him illegally come and release him and apologize.
5. There was a very intimate relationship built up between Paul and this congregation of believers.  
They supported his work financially and in prayer, often.

### II. LET YOUR MANNER OF LIFE. . . .

A. The Greek word translated "conduct" or "manner of life" or "conversation" is *polietuesthe*.

1. It is a unique use of the word for Paul. He usually exhorts Christians to "walk" worthily and uses the Greek word *peripatein* which means "to walk about."
2. *Polietuesthe* is the same word from which we get the English words, politics, politicize, metropolis. It means "to be a citizen."

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3. This terminology would ring a bell with the Philippians.
  4. Paul wants them and us to understand that Christians are citizens of a heavenly kingdom—the kingdom of God.
  5. Sometimes Christians get the feeling of being disfranchised. They cannot feel at home in this world—everything they think is opposed to it, nothing in it satisfies them, they know it is going to be destroyed. BUT THEY MUST REMEMBER THEY ARE "CITIZENS" THEY DO HAVE A CITIZENSHIP . . . THEY DO HAVE A KING.
- B. The Greek verb is in the imperative—it is a command from Paul.
1. Conduct yourself!
  2. It will not happen automatically. It takes determination, decision, and action.
  3. It is something the Christian has to consciously do.
  4. It ought to be passionate, like patriotism. Patriotism is not automatic. It is not something one just talks about—it is something demonstrated—something done.

### III. BE WORTHY. . . .

- A. The Greek word is *axios*.
- B. It is the word from which we get the English word, *axiom*, *axiology*.
- C. It means literally, "value, acceptable, a standard of values."
- D. That which the Christian, the citizen of the kingdom of God, is to walk worthy of is THE GOSPEL.
1. The gospel is a heritage. It is not a religion—it is not something we attach to our worldly lives.
  2. The gospel is a life—it is a citizenship. We *belong* to it.
  3. The Pioneer of our faith, Jesus, came to earth as the Perfect Man and struggled, fought the enemy, gave Himself up to humiliation and death, but victoriously won for us the New Beulah Land. THIS IS OUR HERITAGE . . . struggle, fight, self-sacrifice and victory.
- E. Being worthy means being loyal; it means being a person of integrity, a person of conviction. It means one's conduct measures up to this heritage of the gospel.

The classic illustration of this for me is the military service. There is a great pride (or was, anyway) among America's military men in their calling. This is true of both officers and enlisted men. The oldest of the military academies, West Point and Annapolis, have tried and true traditions and codes of honor by which all cadets conduct themselves.

Those codes of honor have their power, however, in the great heritage of the academies which have produced men who have struggled, fought, died and won victories for the principles of human freedom and dignity.

I'll never forget the pride that swelled up in me as I put on my first set of dress blues in the Navy and marched to some of the stirring John Philip

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Sousa's marches. I thought about the Yorktown, the Enterprise, Halsey, Nimitz. I was willing to give my life in that uniform, for that flag.

I challenge you this morning, that we must have an even more intense and passionate patriotism for the heritage of the Gospel. Let loyalty to your Christian citizenship swell up in you here and now and regret that you have but one life to give to Christ. Remember John the Baptist, Peter the fisherman, Paul the tentmaker; remember Gethsemane, remember Calvary, remember the empty tomb; remember Jesus!

Our text will tell us how to conduct ourselves worthy of the gospel because patriotism is something *you* do, something *I* do.

### DISCUSSION

#### I. STAND FIRM

- A. The Greek word is *stekete*. It is present and imperative. It means to be immovable.
- B. Christians will not be moved from their citizenship in the Kingdom of God by anything, nor anyone.
  - 1. They will not be moved by circumstances.
  - 2. They will not be moved by fads or fashions or social pressures.
  - 3. They will not be moved by feelings or fleshly urges and desires.
  - 4. They will not be swayed by expediency, ease or comfort.
  - 5. They will not be moved by persecution, ridicule or slander.
- C. This does *not* mean the Christian will not grow, that he stays on one level of spiritual development all his life.
  - 1. It means he takes an immovable, unflinching, absolute stand *for* truth and goodness.
  - 2. Wherever he finds truth and goodness he appropriates it and makes it his—he stands for it.
  - 3. Wherever he finds evil, falsehood and wrong, he stands against it.

The early 1940's were the darkest days the citizens of England would ever know. Hitler controlled all of Europe from the borders of Russia to the coast of France. He was sending his V2 rockets (buzz-bombs) indiscriminately into English cities, killing hundreds. Britain's army had suffered the decimating defeat at Dunkirk. There was rumor that the powerful and ruthless German armies were poised to invade England.

Winston Churchill rallied his people: "We shall go on to the end . . . we shall defend our Island whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender. . . ."

Long dark months of trials and tribulations lie before us. Not only great dangers, but many more misfortunes, many shortcomings, many mistakes, many disappointments will surely be our lot. Death and sorrow will be the companions of our journey; hardship our garment; constancy and valor

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our only shield. We must be united, we must be *undaunted*, we must be *inflexible*. . . .”

D. The trouble with many of you—and you—I’m talking about you here, in this building, on this campus—IS THAT YOU HAVE NEVER TAKEN A STAND, INFLEXIBLY, FOR THE GOSPEL.

1. You look around you and it looks like everybody else is indulging themselves in worldliness and you don’t have the grit and courage to swim against the stream—to brace yourselves against the winds of fad and fashion.
2. It is easier, more comfortable, more popular to vacillate . . . to drift with the majority.

E. Why would you let someone you care for very much talk you into taking liberties with your body when you know it is wrong?

Why would you let a “buddy” or “friend” talk you into destroying school property (really God’s property) by senseless pranks, when you know it is wrong?

Why would you skip the chapel worship service or sleep in on Sunday morning, or waste money on trivialities and not pay your school debt?

WHY? BECAUSE YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN AN INFLEXIBLE, UNBENDING, UNYIELDING STAND FOR THE TRUTH . . . FOR WHAT IS RIGHT . . . FOR THE GOSPEL!

F. And why haven’t we taken an unyielding stand for what is right? BECAUSE WE VALUE POPULARITY OR OUR OWN COMFORT MORE WORTHY THAN OUR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE . . . OUR HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP.

Some of you have been lulled into complacency thinking that because you came from a Christian family and are now in Bible College your being a Christian is inevitable. DON’T BELIEVE IT!

YOU MUST TAKE A STAND ALL BY YOURSELF. IT IS YOUR FIGHT, YOUR STRUGGLE, YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Being a Christian doesn’t just happen to you.

Albert Barnes (of Barnes Commentaries) wrote: “A man who has been redeemed by the Blood of the Son of God should be pure. He who is attended by celestial beings, and is soon—he knows not how soon—to be translated into Heaven, should be holy. Are angels my attendants? Then I should walk worthy of my companions. Am I soon to go and dwell with angels? Then I should be pure. Are these feet soon to tread the courts of Heaven? Is my tongue soon to unite with holy beings in praising God? Are these eyes soon to look on the throne of eternal glory, and the ascended Redeemer? Then these feet and eyes and lips should be pure and holy, and I should be dead to the world and live for Heaven.”

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It is said that when Napoleon's army was invading Russia his soldiers came to a village from which all the inhabitants had fled except one man. He was a Russian peasant, a woodsman, and still carried his ax in his leather belt. When the French captain saw him he ordered that he be shot immediately. The French soldiers leveled their guns at his head but he did not flinch. The captain was frustrated by this old man's courage.

Telling his soldiers to lower their guns, he said, "We will spare his life, but we will put a mark on him—we will brand him." So his soldiers brought a branding iron, got it red hot, and placed it on his hand. The man saw and felt his own flesh burn, but still he did not flinch. When the branding iron was removed the peasant saw the letter 'N' branded on his palm. "What is that?" he asked. "This is the letter 'N' and it stands for Napoleon; you belong to Napoleon now," replied the captain.

For a moment the old man did not know what to do or say. His pain was intense, but his loyalty and patriotism was even more passionate, so he placed his burned hand on something solid, and as the soldiers were laughing and jeering at him, he took his ax from his belt with his other hand and brought it swiftly and forcefully down and severed his branded hand at the wrist.

"There," he said to the soldiers, "the hand may belong to Napoleon, but I am a Russian." "If I must die, I will die a Russian."

NOW THAT IS PRETTY SEVERE, YOU SAY. THAT'S A GOOD ILLUSTRATION, BUT WOULD JESUS ASK US TO DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

"If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away. . . . And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell" (Mt. 5:29-30). WHO DO YOU THINK SAID THAT? TO WHOM DID HE SAY IT?

JESUS IS SERIOUS ABOUT THIS MATTER OF TAKING A STAND . . . INFLEXIBLE, UNYIELDING STAND.

Paul wrote to the Christians at Colossae that they were reconciled to God by Christ's death, "provided they continued in the faith, *stable* and *steadfast*, not shifting from the hope of the gospel which they had heard . . ." (Col. 1:22-23).

STAND . . . STAND FOR THE GOSPEL . . . DON'T BEND, DON'T YIELD, DON'T BE MOVED. DO IT TODAY! DO IT EVERY DAY! IT MUST BE DONE EVERY DAY. THERE ARE NO VACATIONS FROM STANDING . . . NO "R & R" . . . IT DOESN'T GET EASIER AS YOU GET OLDER! NOW IS THE TIME TO SAY, "I AM DETERMINED, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND. . . ." EVERY TIME YOU HEDGE, EVERY TIME YOU COMPROMISE, EVERY TIME YOU BEND IT BECOMES EASIER TO DO SO! STABILITY AND STEADFASTNESS ARE THE MARKS OF TRUE SPIRITUALITY!

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### II. STRIVING SIDE BY SIDE

- A. The Greek word is *sunathlountes*. From it we get the English word, *athletics*, *athlete*. It was used of those who contended in the Greek olympic games.
- B. Striving in athletic contests demands:
1. Self discipline, forcing oneself to give up any hindrance to the contest.
  2. Training, practice, repetition, until excellence is achieved (which is never).
  3. Expending energy, working, sweating.
  4. Concentration of the mind, thinking, alertness.
  5. The will to win.
- C. You all know that. We don't really have trouble around here getting people to play games—to strive in contests of physical prowess; they run, jump, kick, tackle, throw things, hit things, shoot things, yell, shout and scream.

THEY DO IT IN AN ORGANIZED WAY, UNORGANIZED WAYS AND AND UNGODLY WAYS.

THEY DO IT FOR CLOTH LETTERS, METAL TROPHIES, AND THE UNGODLY ATHLETICS OR ANTICS ARE ENGAGED IN FOR THE FALSE JOY OF SELF-INDULGENCE AND REBELLION.

- D. Paul wanted the Christians at Philippi to strive together for their spiritual prize, their spiritual heritage with the same intensity athletes strive for the glory of their country in the Olympics, or for the glory of their college alma mater.
1. That is what Christ wants for you here too.
  2. When you are assigned a research paper, do you strive or sluff-off? Do you force yourselves to do hours of research in the library, to write and rewrite until excellence is achieved, concentrate, sweat, think, work?  
WHY NOT? YOU DO WHEN YOU PLAY BALL, WHEN YOU ROUGH-HOUSE WHERE YOU SHOULDN'T!
  3. When someone asks you to help at missions emphasis, or ambassadors or survey calling or rest-home visiting, do you force yourself, give up comforts, work, run, jump, yell and shout?  
WHY NOT?  
JUST HOW MUCH IS THE GOSPEL WORTH TO YOU? HOW MUCH DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO STRIVE FOR YOUR HEAVENLY COUNTRY. . . . TO WIN FOR YOUR KING?
- E. Paul probably meant striving to face the enemies of the Philippians who were without.
1. But the enemy (the devil) without has a willing tool that is within us, SELF.

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2. We've got to strive with the enemy within us mightily—SELF MUST BE FOUGHT, SELF MUST BE BROUGHT UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF CHRIST'S SPIRIT.
3. Have you ever been to boot-camp in the Marines or the Navy? A lot of you need it! Talk about striving, side by side. Reville at 5:30 a.m.; each person has 5 minutes to shower shave and get dressed; march in formation to breakfast; return to the barracks in formation; 5 minutes to get inside, get your pack and piece and fall out in formation; then it is close-order drill, rifle range, obstacle course, close-order drill, etc., etc. until you fall exhausted in your bunk and lights out at 10.

Why such agony, such torture, such striving? Because SELF must be whipped, self-control is an absolute must. Because when a marine is on the front lines, facing the enemy without, there is no way he can win if he has not striven with and conquered the enemy within!

- F. The Christian life and the Christian ministry is no pleasure cruise. We are not here sailing along on the Love Boat—this is not Fantasy Island.
1. There is no place in the Christian struggle for the flippant and the blase!
  2. There was nothing blase about Paul's struggle!
  3. Listen to this:
    - a. 5 times 40 lashes
    - b. 3 times beaten with rods
    - c. once stoned
    - d. 3 times shipwrecked; a night and a day adrift at sea
    - e. danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from his own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brethren
    - f. in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night
    - g. in hunger and thirst, often without food
    - h. in cold and exposure
    - i. daily pressure and anxiety for all the churches

PAUL HAD NO OCCASION TO BE BLASE . . . HE WAS CONSTANTLY STRIVING WITH THE ENEMY WITHIN . . . He fought and fought, conquered, and then strained more, Phil. 3:7-16.

- G. What is your citizenship in the kingdom of God worth? Have you any sense of honor about being called into the army of Christ?
1. Is it worth striving against the profane, irreligious and immoral worldliness of a brother?
  2. Is it worth going against a father when he is wrong?
  3. Is it worth having to flee from your home?
  4. Is it worth suffering exploitation and injustice and ridicule?

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5. Is it worth working hard and honestly for?
6. Is it worth being a "pilgrim" in this world?
7. Is it worth going to a foreign country and dying there?

THAT IS WHAT IT WAS WORTH TO JACOB. God said: "Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel (prince of God) for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed" (Gen. 32:28).

WE HAVE TOO MANY DON QUIXOTES IN THE KINGDOM, PLAY-PRE-TENDING, JOUSTING WITH WINDMILLS. They never get down to the hard realities of everyday striving with the real battles of lust, dishonesty, laziness, rebelliousness, greed, envy. They're out knocking down the imaginary enemies.

- H. Who are we to think we can enter into that rest without striving when it was our Master who, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, who with loud crying and tears experienced obedience through the things He suffered. Nothing blase about Gethsemane!

This same Paul, in prison later (after this), facing the end of his race, wrote to his young Timothy, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved his appearing . . ." (II Tim. 4:6ff.).

SO I SAY TO YOU THIS MORNING, STRIVE, STRIVE WITH YOURSELF AND BRING SELF INTO SUBJECTION TO THE SPIRIT AND WORD OF CHRIST . . . STRIVE SIDE BY SIDE AGAINST THE ENEMY, THE DEVIL AND HIS TOOLS . . . AND WHEN YOUR RACE IS OVER, YOU TOO WILL RECEIVE YOUR CROWN!

### III. NOT FRIGHTENED IN ANYTHING BY YOUR OPPONENTS

- A. The enemy cannot shame you or enslave you, or make you less than you are.

1. You are the citizen of an unshakable kingdom.

Babylon fell, the glory of Greece is gone, Rome remains only in legend and crumbling ruins. Someday the glory that is America will disappear.

BUT NOT SO WITH YOUR KINGDOM, YOUR CITIZENSHIP . . . IT IS FOREVER YOUR KING CONQUERED DEATH, HERE, IN HISTORY, TO PROVE IT!

2. You are exalted to joint-heirship with Christ. You are royalty. No matter that now you must wear the tatters and rags of finite flesh—some day you shall wear the star-studded, celestial robes fitted for you from the heavenly closets!
3. One of the great temptations that has caused so much desertion among the ranks of God's soldiers (ministers of the gospel) today is male mid-life crisis.



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- a. There is an interesting parallel to this in a story I once read in *Readers Digest*, August 1978, "Portrait of a Traitor."
  - b. Brig. Gen. Jean-Louis Jeanmaire, a man who had outwardly personified the honor of Switzerland and the devotion of its citizen army, was arrested and discovered to be the worst traitor in the history of Switzerland.
  - c. His treason is traced in the article mainly to the fact that in his later years he had been transferred from the infantry to the civil-defense forces. His self-image suffered. He always envisioned himself as a combat officer who would lead his men against invading hordes. Now he felt that his career was floundering and the possibility of fulfilling his boyhood dreams was fading.
4. Your opponents, the devil and his ambassadors, will try to ridicule, slander, and deceive you and destroy your Christian honor.
- a. This is what the Viet Cong tried to do to our POWs. Read again that Book Section of *Reader's Digest*, June 1976, on the POW.  
The way the POWs survived was to hold fast to their belief in who they were and the truth of what they had been fighting for.
  - b. The devil attacked Adam and Eve at this vulnerable point—self-image. If you will take the forbidden fruit you will be gods for as a believer you are less than you can be! A LIE!
  - c. The devil attacked Jesus at this point—self-image, If you are the Son of God. . . .
5. Remember who you are. You are royalty. You are beautiful in God's eyes. You are eternally young and alive in God's eyes. WHY DO YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO THE DEVIL AND HIS HENCHMEN SEDUCING YOU INTO BELIEVING YOU HAVE TO SIN TO RETAIN YOUR BEAUTY OR YOUR LIFE! AS A BELIEVER YOU ARE EVERYTHING GOD MADE YOU TO BE!
- B. The enemy cannot rob you of your heavenly inheritance.
1. Moth and rust cannot consume it.
  2. Thieves cannot break through and steal it.
  3. You have an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept for you in heaven. . . . and you are guarded through faith until you receive it (I Pet. 1:4).
  4. Think of the tragic compromises some have made because they have let the enemy frighten them into thinking the only riches, or the only pleasures, or the only fame is IN THIS WORLD!
  5. Esau despised the spiritual birthright which was unseen, for a bowl of bean soup which he could have right then.

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6. This slight momentary affliction of having to stand and strive and be courageous is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison . . . (II Cor. 4:17).

THINK OF THAT . . . BEYOND ALL COMPARISON. THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS WORLD OF RICHES, ROYALTY, PLEASURE, HONOR, SATISFACTION WITH WHICH TO COMPARE YOUR INHERITANCE!

Don't let the enemy scare you into believing there is!

7. The enemy says, "If God has such great things for you, why doesn't He give them to you now . . . because He doesn't have them for you. . . . You'd better get what you can of riches, pleasure and power now. . . ." You only go around once!
8. But God, if He did not spare His own Son for you, will certainly come through on the promise of your inheritance (Rom. 8:31ff.).
9. God has already given you a down payment on your inheritance in the Holy Spirit dwelling in your heart, guiding you into the joys of spirituality through His Word, the Bible.

### C. The enemy cannot destroy you.

1. In II Kings 6:11ff. the king of Syria sent his army to surround the city where Elisha was and take the prophet captive. When the Syrian army surrounded the city the servant of the prophet arose early in the morning and began to be afraid.

Elisha said, "Fear not, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha from the Lord.

2. In Revelation 13 people of the Roman empire worshiped the "beast" (Roman emperor), saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" THE BEAST IS INVINCIBLE, THEY SAID.

But John wrote, ". . . the beast . . . is human . . . its number is 666." THE BEAST IS NOT INVINCIBLE. ROME FELL, AND THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LIVED ON!

3. The enemy, using the fear of death, kept most of the world of mankind in slavish bondage to sin, but Jesus came and destroyed that power.

The enemy tried to destroy Jesus, but Jesus rose victorious, having defeated the worst the enemy could do.

4. The enemy has tried to obliterate the written word of God and cannot even do that, because it is in the hearts of believers generation after generation and will always be.

The enemy has tried to kill the church but he cannot do that. It has survived every stratagem, persecution, false doctrine, materialism.

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5. John's vision in Revelation saw the church Rome tried to destroy as an innumerable multitude of individuals out of every tribe and tongue and nation, alive, worshipping God around His throne.

The great Admiral Nelson of the long-ago British Fleet was about to engage the enemy at the battle of Trafalgar. He dressed himself in his full uniform and placed all the medals and orders that he had won upon his breast.

His officers remonstrated with him, saying he should take off his decorations, or at least cover them with a handkerchief, as otherwise he would become a prime target for the enemy's musketry.

But the gallant Admiral would have none of their advice: "I won these distinctions in the face of the enemy," he said, "and I shall wear them in the face of the enemy."

YOU HAVE PUT ON CHRIST, YOU ARE A PRIME TARGET OF THE ENEMY. BUT DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED IN ANYTHING BY HIM AND HIS MINIONS. . . . SO LONG AS YOU WEAR THE CHRISTIAN ARMOR, HE CANNOT HARM YOU, MAKE YOU LESS THAN YOU ARE, ROB YOU OR DESTROY YOU!

## CONCLUSION

I would like to discuss the rest of this text in this sermon, but time does not permit.

I close with this story: May 12, 1962, a great old American soldier is speaking some of the last words he will say to an Academy filled with young men preparing to become officers and future leaders of the Army of the USA:

"Duty—Honor—Country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. . . . The unbelievers will say they are but words, but a slogan, but a flamboyant phrase. . . . But these are some of the things they do. They build your basic character; . . . they make you strong enough to know when you are weak, and brave enough to face yourself when you are afraid. They teach you to be proud and unbending in honest failure, but humble and gentle in success, not to substitute words for actions, not to seek the path of comfort, but to face the stress and spur of difficulty and challenge; to learn to stand up in the storm but to have compassion on those who fail; to master yourself before you seek to master others; to have a heart that is clean, a goal that is high; to learn to laugh yet never forget how to weep; to reach into the future yet never neglect the past; to be serious yet never to take yourself too seriously; to be modest so that you will remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength.

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The shadows are lengthening for me. The twilight is here. My days of old have vanished tone and tint; they have gone glimmering through the dreams of things that were. Their memory is one of wondrous beauty, watered by tears, and coaxed and caressed by the smiles of yesterday. . . . But in the evening of my memory, always I come back to West Point. Always there echoes and re-echoes in my ears—Duty—Honor—Country. . . .”

Douglas MacArthur, at his last roll call at the Point. He died two years later.

If we filled the stage this morning with old soldiers of the gospel, they would say to you:

Down through the years of your ministry may your memory always come back to God's Word and may this truth echo and re-echo in your heart. . . . Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ. . . . **STAND FIRM. . . . STRIVE SIDE BY SIDE. . . . AND DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED IN ANYTHING BY YOUR OPPONENTS. . . .**