

Theme: **New Normal Mindset**

Big Idea: **The series reminds us that God is with us in the culture-shifting situation we find ourselves in.**

Topic: **Prepare for the Unplanned**

Text: **Phil. 1:27-30 NIV**

<sup>27</sup>Whatever happens, **conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.** Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you **stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one** for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup>**without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.** This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that **you will be saved—and that by God.** <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ **not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,** <sup>30</sup>since you are going through **the same struggle** you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

**AGILITY** – ability to think and understand quickly in reaction to changes

*“Whatever happens”*

- The world will continue to change. Change is inevitable. There will always be “disruptions.”
- We can’t go against the change. We have to flow with the change.
- We have to adjust ourselves in response to the changes.
- People who do not transform will be left behind (digital and biblical transformation).
- **When God wants you to grow, He makes you uncomfortable.**
- Be agile, stay hopeful and be prepared, you never know what tomorrow may bring.

**RELIABILITY** - the quality of being able to be trusted or believed because of working or behaving well

*“conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ”*

- The Greek word translated “conduct” means literally, “to live as a citizen.”
- Paul calls on the Philippians to behave in a way that will match their message.
- He is calling for integrity, he is calling for spiritual commitment, he is calling for credibility in conduct.
- Live according to the values and customs and culture of the heavenly kingdom.
- Be reliable, behave in a way that is consistent with what we know, what we teach, with what we preach, and with what we believe.
- Paul insists on this highest standard.

**RESILIENCY** – the quality to recover quickly in response to difficulties

*“stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel”*

- The word “stand firm” is used to refer to a soldier who will not move from his post.
- The military metaphor is that of holding a critical position while under tremendous attack.
- You may fall down but you get up again to fight. No retreat, no surrender.
- The word “strive together” in Greek is “sunathle” where we get the word “athlete”
- It means “to struggle along with someone.” It’s talking about team sports.
- Paul moves from the metaphor of a military soldier standing at his post (standing firm) to a team of athletes struggling together against a common opponent to win the victory (striving together)
- Struggle along with someone as a team of athletes.
- Be resilient, don’t detach yourself from the fellowship, be a teamplayer, be a teammate.

**SECURITY** - the state of feeling safe, stable, and free from fear or anxiety

<sup>28</sup>*without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you*

- We better be aggressive. We’re in a dangerous time in our church history.
- The covid pandemic is killing the faith of a lot of churches, a lot of Christians.
- Don’t let it kill yours, too. Continue to transform. Transform biblically. Transform digitally.

- Learn new things, adjust yourself, rediscover your purpose, you have a new use and purpose.
- Be excited, be enthused, be thrilled, be blessed.

**FLEXIBILITY** - the quality of bending easily without breaking, the ability to be easily modified

*“29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him”*

- The coronavirus epidemic created fear, confusion, doubt, questions everywhere.
- We haven’t seen the end of it yet. It’s still moving at a rapid rate.
- We don’t know the final outcome of it, not just the physical outcome of the illness itself, but the implications that have hit everyone from an economic standpoint.
- It’s taken life out of their control.
- Rabbi Kushner wrote a book, “Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?”
- There are no good people. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.
- Bad things will always happen because there are no good people; we are all sinners, and the world we live in is a fallen world.
- Be flexible, be willing to change with the times.

**CONCLUSION**

- God is in control. He is doing what He wills, what He purposes, in everything.
- Isaiah 46:9-10 says, *“I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’”*
- Nothing on this earth happens by accident.
- Isaiah 14:24 says, *“The Lord Almighty has sworn, “Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will happen.”*
- Knowing the reasons why God does anything and knowing the future is beyond us.
- But it’s not only beyond us, it’s not good for us.
- You wouldn’t want to know the future. You think you would, but you wouldn’t.
- If you knew the future, it would rob you of present joy.
- Ignorance of the future leads to trust in God who has eternally secured our future.
- Ignorance of the future is a sweet and kind gift from God to us.
- Ephesians 1:11, *“God works all things in accordance with the plan of His will.”*
- Romans 8:28, *“God works all things together for good to those that love Him and are called according to His purpose.”*

**DISCUSSION**

Our mindset is critical to our success and growth. This is the preparation that will make us standing firm until the end. According to Stanford psychologist and researcher, Carol Dweck, there are two kinds of mindsets — the fixed mindset and the growth mindset. These mindsets play a crucial role in shaping our lives and capacity to learn.

GROWTH MINDSET	FIXED MINDSET
Failure is an opportunity to grow	Failure is the limit of my abilities
I can learn to do anything I want	I can either do it or I can’t
Challenges help me to grow	I don’t like to be challenged
Feedback is constructive	Feedback and criticism are personal
I like to try new things	I stick to what I know
I might succeed next time	I will never succeed

1. Identify which mindset is dominant in your life.
2. Identify your points of failure.
3. In your personal life, how can you apply the words: “Be agile” “Be resilient” “Be reliable” “Be secure” “Be flexible”