**[Read Philippians 1:27-2:2]**

“Whatever happens” – what a way to start an exhortation. “*Whatever* happens”. For Paul, in chains on trial in Rome, that’s a powerful thing to say. For the Philippians, under attack for their faith in 1st century Greece, that is a meaningful challenge.

“whateverhappens, *conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ*”. The Philippians have been united to Christ through His death and resurrection, and so *“whatever happens”*, they are to live as people who have been united to Christ through His death and resurrection. Unity with Christ has an impact in every aspect of our lives, and so we must conduct ourselves as people who know this about themselves.

Now this has huge implications, wide ranging. Look to the cross and see what great love has been lavished on us, and consider what it means to live a life worthy of that. But Paul has a specific things in mind for the Philippians then, and for us now. “Whatever happens, conduct… …I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel”.

When Paul considers the good news of Jesus Christ, and thinks of the Philippians, his prayer is that they would be united, they would be of one mind, and they would be striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.

Do you see how that works? The gospel, the saving work of Jesus Christ, justification, transformation, resurrection, these things that we all know for ourselves to be true, to be the best and most precious thing on earth; when we live that out we are united as one body as we strive together for the faith of that gospel. That is what the Christian Union is all about, this is what the college group in Jesus is all about. We all here are one body, striving together for the faith of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Think again about the gospel. There is now *no* condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Be encouraged that you have been made right before God! Know the comfort of Christ’s love for you! Share in the spirit with other Christians in Church! Know the tenderness and compassion of a God who is not distant, but became man, and is present with us to this very day. If you have experienced any of that, then be like-minded with your brothers and sisters here in the Jesus college group.

This week, this term, this year is going to have its ups and downs as we tell people the good news of Jesus Christ. But here in Jesus college is a team, who together are making Jesus Christ know in Jesus college. We’re a team not because we have chosen to be, but because we have seen and experienced the good news of Jesus Christ, and now conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel.

This week especially, let’s be of one mind in the spirit. Share in encouragements as we strive forward together, but honest with one another in our discouragements, so that we might comfort each other in His love. This week of events is not about us, the CICCU is not about its members – it’s not even about those who are not yet its members. We have been brought together by Christ to strive forward for His name’s sake.

Let’s spend a few minutes praising Christ Jesus, thanking Him for bringing us together to strive forward for the gospel, and praying that we would stay firmly focussed on Him this week.

Things going on today:

* Lunch + Café: (1pm) “JESUS: myth, man, or more?”
  + People have so many misconceptions about who Jesus is
* Discussion: Dirk Jonkind discussing the reliability of the bible
* Caf together at 6:30pm
* Evening talk: “REAL LOVE: a laughing stock”
  + Live music, testimony, Michael Green (who was excellent last night) offering Jesus to everyone there
* Talk through your day with the person sitting next to you
  + Where are you going to be and when – who is going to be around you at those times
  + Who can you invite
    - In a big way? Lecture announcement – Mike Hood has offered to buy a chocolate bar for anyone who does a lecture announcement
    - In a personal way? Asking someone if they know what the jumper is about, do they know there’s an event this evening?
      * Knocking on their door
      * The person who always sits behind you in lectures
      * Walking between lectures
    - When you can pray?
      * Got a quiet day? What a blessing to be able to set aside, 10, 20, 30 minutes to pray!
* As we share, remember to have one mind *in the spirit*. We are united in Christ, a team brought together in Him, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel
* Prayer meetings are the most important meeting of the events week
  + Where our oneness is most clearly displayed
  + Tomorrow morning: St. Andrew’s street Baptist – make every effort to be there
    - Guaranteed to be a time of encouragement and support
* Other than that, let’s go! I’m available at any time, if not see you at lunch!