Lesson 2

Rejoicing in Unity and in Christ's Example

Philippians 1:27–2:30

Take some time to slowly read through Philippians 1:27-2:30 every day this week, asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your thinking and to speak to you through this portion of the Word of God.

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus..."

Philippians 2:5

1. What concept from last week's lesson was especially helpful or thought provoking to you?

2. Look for a verse in the lesson this week that is meaningful to you and make it your memory verse. Write it down, carry it with you, put it on your refrigerator or mirror or dashboard and memorize it. Share your memory verse with your small group.

Rejoicing in Unity:
Read Philippians 1:27–2:4

3. How should we as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ conduct ourselves according to Philippians 1:27?

4. Describe what Paul wanted to hear about his children in the faith according to Philippians 1:27-28 and Ephesians 4:1-3.

5. What will sometimes be the privilege of believers according to Philippians 1:29

6. Discuss what these Scriptures teach about suffering for Christ's sake:

   ❖ John 15:18-21

   ❖ II Timothy 3:10-12

   ❖ I Peter 2:18-25

   1. I Peter 4:12-5:1

7. Discuss the example that Paul set for the Philippians in Philippians 1:30 and Acts 16:16-40.

8. List the ways that the Philippians could make Paul's joy complete in Philippians 2:2-5 and discuss.

9. Is there a relationship or situation in your life that comes to mind as you consider these verses? How can you apply them to your life?

Rejoicing in Christ's Example:

Read Philippians 2:2– 8

As Paul discusses the attitudes of selflessness and humility his thoughts turn to the supreme example, the Lord Jesus Christ. This passage presents the essence of the Gospel. Paul may have been quoting an early hymn or verse. Biblical scholars call this passage the kenosis passage from the Greek word *kenosis* which means emptying.

10. List the "downward" steps that Jesus Christ took as he emptied Himself from Philippians 2:5-8.

11. List the "upward" steps to the exaltation of Jesus Christ in
    Philippians 2:9-11.

12. Put the *kenosis* passage, Philippians 2:5-8, in your own words.

13. Look up the word *humility* in the dictionary and discuss how Jesus Christ was the
    supreme example of humility.

14. Describe all the things you learn about the Lord Jesus Christ from this passage in
    Philippians and relate them to Matthew 11:28-29, Mark 10:45 and Luke 19:10.

15. From Philippians 2:6, John 1:1 and Hebrews 1:8, where was Jesus Christ before He
    became man?

16. How is the teaching in I Peter 5:6-7 similar to the kenosis passage?

17. Do you think Philippians 2:9-11 teaches that everyone will some day acknowledge Jesus
    Christ as their personal Lord and Savior or that everyone will some day acknowledge that
    He is Lord regardless of their personal relationship with Him?

Rejoicing by following Christ's Example:

Philippians 2:12-30

18. We know from many Scriptures including John 3:16 and Ephesians 2:8-9 that salvation is a free gift from God, not something that we can earn or deserve by being good enough. Once we have received this gift of salvation what should we do according to Philippians 2:12-13 and Ephesians 2:10?

19. Do you think our actions alone are important to God or are our words, attitudes and motives also very important? Why?

20. Consider Philippians 2:15-16, Isaiah 60:1-3 and Matthew 5:16. How can we let our lights shine in a dark world?

21. Discuss how Paul pictures his life and his attitude in Philippians 2:17. Also see Numbers 28:7 as background.

22. What do you learn about Epaphroditus from Philippians 2:25-30 and 4:18?

23. Paul was a mentor and friend to Timothy and Epaphroditus. Is there someone in your life that you can begin to mentor in an informal way in their walk with the Lord? Write down their name and begin to pray for them and for the opportunity to model Christ's example to them.

24. Based on your study this week, what do you think God is teaching you or inviting you to do or be?