

Philippians 2

Jesus

- **Paul writing from Jail in Rome** to Church Philippi 4000 miles away
 1. **Chapter 1:** Dealt w/ trouble from outside the church **Persecution**
 2. **Chapter 2:** Dealt w/ trouble from within the church **Pride**

2 Corinthians 12:20 [I hope for the best but...] I fear lest, when I come...there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbiting's, whisperings, conceits, tumults...

Galatians 5:15 [to believers] ...if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Ch. 2 Call to die. Not to the beauty/individuality of who God created us to be
Dying to the old sinful nature wars within us

- Paul concerned Philippi moving in this direction. Knows pride steals true joy/Oneness
- Remedy of Pride? **Humility...**

Men do not quarrel when their [selfish] **ambitions have come to an end.** [Spurgeon]

- **Paul had to learn things...**
 1. *Learned* how to find good in every situation Ch. 1
 2. *Learned* how to walk-in humility Ch. 2
 3. *Learned* how to be content... Ch. 4

Philippians 4:1 ... Everywhere and in all things **I have learned both** to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

- Paul learned. Even Jesus increased in wisdom...

Luke 2:40 [Jesus] grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him... **52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

I. Mind of Christ Call to Die

Ch. 1 Key to Joy: Conscious choice of mind/will to find good in trials

James 1:2 My brethren, **count it all joy** when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the **testing** of your faith **produces patience.** 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be **perfect and complete,** lacking nothing.

Ch. 2 Key to Joy: Conscious choice of mind/will to humble ourselves before God/others

1 Therefore...

Since Salvation comes with Suffering
Here's is how to suffer well...or...Think this way in trials

1b... if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy...

▪ **Have you experienced the Love of God?**

1. **Consolation:** gr. *Paraklēsis*. To draw near. HS drawing near during suffering
2. **Comfort:** gr. *pä-rä-mü'-thē-on*. Calming Words of God's Love washing over
3. **Fellowship:** gr. *koinonia* Communion with the Holy Spirit
4. **Affection:** Compassion of God felt in the bowls/seat of our emotion

Hebrews 4:15 [Jesus sympathizes] with our weaknesses...

Hosea 11:8 "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? **...My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred.** [churns. Lit. My emotions turn over within Me]

Rhetorical questions for truly saved...lit.

Since you have experienced these things from God during suffering...

2 ...fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

▪ **Fulfill my joy:** Knowing I want God's best for you...**Be One**

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. One Spirit Ch.1 | Holy Spirit |
| 2. One Love | God and Each other |
| 3. One Accord | Striving together for the Gospel |
| 4. One Mind... | Main Topic of Ch. 2 One Mind |

Cooperate Church Unity is only attained by Individual Personal Humility

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit

Do nothing motivated by Self-Gain/Promotion at the expense of others

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Selfish Ambition: Posturing for position. | Wanting to attain at all costs |
| ▪ Conceit: Vainglory. Empty pride. | Wanting to win at all costs |

3b... but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

- **Lowliness:** Modesty; i.e. Right opinion of self

Romans 12:3 [Paul called to every believer...] not to think of himself **more highly** than he ought to think, but to **think soberly**

Luke 10:17 [70 Jesus sent to preach] ... **returned with joy**, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, **I give you the authority** to trample on serpents and

scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 **Nevertheless do not rejoice in this**, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather **rejoice because your names are written in heaven.**"

- **Not at all self-deprecation**...but knowing who we are

John 13:3 [NIV] Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist

- **Knowing who we are/Who we are not...**

**Everything you have/everything you are able to do...is a gift of God
Rejoice not in abilities but because you've been forgiven of your sins**

Galatians 5:26 Let us not become **conceited**, provoking one another, envying one another.

- **Following Christ is not a competition**
- **In fact, we are to help others win. Treat them as more important than self**

End goal: Not to acquire as much Biblical knowledge as we can and stop there
But to use it to help others to spiritually succeed

Paraphrase: If I have a choice as to who to do good for, you or me, I choose you

- **Being genuinely interested in others**

1. What are your interests; hopes/dreams in the Lord?
2. What can I do to help you get there?
3. How can I facilitate your victory, promotion, growth, restoration, healing?

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

We Naturally look to our own interest
Only Supernaturally do we look to the interests of others

If I consider you above me and you consider me above you, then a marvelous thing happens: we have a community where everyone is looked up to, and no one is looked down on. [Guzik]

- **Ch. 1 Key to Joy:** Conscious choice of mind/will to see the good in every situation
- **Ch. 2 Key to Joy:** Conscious choice of mind/will to humble ourselves before others

If Pride causes us to fall...Humility gives us stability

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...

One Mind of v 2: **The Mind of Christ**

- **We must let this mind be in us**

Q. Do we receive the mind of Christ at Salvation?

A. No. Paul said we must allow [let] it be in us

Q. Then, how do we receive the mind of Christ?

A. Conscious decision of the mind/will to be given over completely to Jesus...

Let this mind. Lit to direct one's mind to a thing

IOW...We can have as much of God as we are willing to yield to Him

1 Corinthians 6:19 ...you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Romans 12:2 ...be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Our minds cannot be rehabilitated...Our minds must be transformed by Jesus

- Don't be **conformed**: Poured into the mold of the world
- Do be **transformed**: gr. *metamorphoō*. Lit. To change into another form

**Don't allow the world to shape you... Allow Jesus change you
Blessed Brainwashing**

- **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...**

6...who, being **in the form of God**, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **7** but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, **and coming in the likeness of men.****8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

Make no mistake...

The One who spoke the universes into existence *chose* to empty Himself and become a man

- Jesus has always been in the form of God/ Equal to God the Father

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifested in the flesh...**

God became man and that man served others to the point of death...

- Instead of exerting His undisputed rights as God Jesus chose to ...
 1. **Make** Himself of no Reputation
 2. **Take** the form of a slave/appearance of a man
 3. **Forsake** His rights by Humbling Himself

...and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
God became man and that man died on a cross for us

- **Mind of Christ...**

**Why should we live to accumulate as much as we can...?
When God Himself came to this earth to serve others**

9 Therefore...

- **Since Jesus obeyed the Father**

9b... God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Humility does not lead to shame **but to greatness**

Isaiah 50:5 The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away. 6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; **I did not hide My face from shame** and spitting. 7 "For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And **I know that I will not be ashamed.**

**Since Jesus obeyed the Father in Humility to the point of death...
Jesus was given the Name above ALL Names**

- **Greatness is found in Humility:** Jesus our example...

Matthew 20:25... but whoever desires to become great among you, **let him be your servant.** 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

- Humility is the toll required to walk the narrow road to Glory...

Matthew 18:3 [Jesus] "... unless you are converted and **become as little children**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Micah 6:8 [God] has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to **walk humbly with your God?**

Your will above all else My purpose remains the art of losing myself in bringing You praise

Someone once said... Everybody dies but not everybody lives
Jesus said... In order to really live we must first die.

- **Dying to Self/Selfishness/Pride**

Do You Walk in White? No one experiences complete sanctification without going through a "white funeral" — the **burial of the old life**. If there has never been this crucial moment of change through death, sanctification will never be more than an elusive dream. There must be a "white funeral," a death with only one resurrection— a **resurrection into the life of Jesus Christ...** Have you really come to your last days? You have often come to them in your mind, but have you really experienced them? ... **Death means you stop being.** You must agree with God and stop being the **intensely striving kind of Christian you have been.** We avoid the cemetery and continually refuse our own death. It will not

happen by striving, but by yielding to death. It is dying— being “baptized into His death” [Romans 6:3]. Has there been a point in your life which **you now mark as your last day?** ...Will you agree with [God] that this is your last day on earth? The moment of agreement depends on you. [Oswald Chambers]

- **No newness of life without death...**

Romans 6:4 We were buried with Him...that just as Christ was raised from the dead...even so we also should **walk in newness of life.**

Matthew 10:39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who **loses his life for My sake will find it.**

Matthew 16:25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and **He will lift you up.**

- **Reward for humility?** Exaltation as in Jesus example...

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, **all of you be submissive to one another,** and be **clothed with humility,** for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, **that He may exalt you in due time...**

SUMMARY Mind of Christ Living to die for others. Humility is the mark of true greatness in the eyes of God

- **Ch. 1 Key to Joy**

1. Conscious choice of mind/will to *see the good in every situation*
2. Dealing with trouble outside church: **Persecution**

- **Ch. 2 Key to Joy**

1. Conscious choice of mind/will to *humble ourselves before God/others*
2. Dealing with potential trouble within church: **Pride**

Call to die. Not killing the beauty/individuality of who God created us to be
Dying to the old sinful nature that wars within us

Either we die or the Church dies...

Ephesians 6:14 [Armor of God] [Gird] your waist with truth...put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 ... **shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace**

Every one of us is Called to be a Light Bearer
Ready to share the Gospel without hindrance of sin in our lives

II. Light Bearers

Philippians 2:8 [Though Jesus was God He...] found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

Psalm 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- **Simply believing in God is not Saving Faith...What is Saving Faith?**

I am a sinner. I deserve God's judgment. Jesus is the only Savior. He died and rose again to pay for my sins in full and I trust in Him alone for My salvation. His Holy Spirit began to reside in me the moment I believed and I love because He first loved me. My good works I do out of obedience to Him in order to express my love toward God for what He did. Good works do not earn my Salvation but simply express my love to Jesus. When I am not doing good works, I tend to fear and lack assurance because I am not walking in the faith I claim to possess. [NJC]

- **We are not saved by Works.** Period

Titus 3:3 ...we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. [Our BC Resume] 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

We are not saved by works but...Saving Faith Works

- **We begin to look/act/think like Jesus: Letting His mind be in us...**

1. Love
2. Humility
3. Forgiveness
4. Self-Sacrifice

- **Not growing in these?** Your backsliding or not saved. Fear and Tremble

**Paul brings it around...Work out your own Salvation
Work out what God has already worked in...**

...13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

**That is the Question...Is God working in us?
Mark of a True Christian is bearing good fruit [good change]**

- **Once God begins His good work in us,** He will continue until the timer pops

Philippians 1:6b... He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ...

- **Make sure your saved:** Becoming more like Jesus? Test yourself. Is Christ in you?
- Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling

Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Next, Paul prays for a practical example of teachings from Ch 1 and 2
Seeing the good in every situation, humbling ourselves, working out our Salvation

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing...

**God: Tell them to STOP COMPLAINING...STOP ARGUING
Not a good look for My kids**

- **Complaining:** gr. gon-gū-smo's Lit. murmur, mutter, secret debate/displeasure. From gon-gū'-zō Lit Grumble in low tone like cooing of doves
- **Disputing:** gr. dē-ä-lo-gē-smo's Lit. Inward reasoning, hesitation to believe, arguing. From dē-ä-lo-gē'-zo-mī bring together different reasons

Perverse reasoning: Not necessarily verbalized also inward reasoning. i.e. for evil intent

Matthew 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed **evil thoughts [dē-ä-lo-gē-smo's]**, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

- Always questioning with evil intent...

Luke 6:6 [Sabbath] [Jesus] entered the synagogue and taught. And a man was there whose right hand was withered. 7 So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him. 8 But **He knew their thoughts**, and said to the man who had the withered hand, "Arise and stand here." And he arose and stood. 9 Then Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?" 10 And when He had looked around at them all, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. 11 But they were **filled with rage**, and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Fault Finders/Sin Sniffers/Nit-Pickers/ Worthless to the Kingdom

2 Timothy 2:14 Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to **strive about words** [pet doctrines] to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

Those who complain and argue don't resemble their Father

Or...maybe they do?

John 8:41 [Religious Leaders to Jesus] "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God." [implied You don't even know who your father is] **...44** [Jesus] **You are of your father the devil**, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.

Q. Who's your daddy? God or the Accuser of the brethren?

A. Your daddy is who you resemble in word/action. Apple not far tree

Do all things without complaining and disputing...

15 that you may become blameless and harmless, **children of God** without

fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...

Why do all things without complaining/arguing? Cause God said so and...

That we might validate the Gospel with our lives

- **Seeing the good:** 10 Spies saw giants. 2 Saw fruit
- **Humbling ourselves:** Taking the log out of own eyes before speck in others...
 1. **Approachable:** Known as **Blameless/Harmless Children of God**
 2. **Shining Bright:** Lights shining in the midst of a crooked/perverse world

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Want to shine?

Stop complaining and fault finding

- **Lights in world** sharing the Gospel to a world of **complainers and fault finders**

Daniel 12:3 [End times] Those who are wise **shall shine Like the brightness** of the firmament, And those who **turn many to righteousness** Like the stars forever and ever.

16 hold... **fast the word of life**, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

- God's Word is the Word of Life. **Word that gives Life!**

Romans 1:16 ... I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the **power of God to salvation** for everyone who believes

- **Stop complaining/arguing: Instead be approachable and able to share**

That I may rejoice in Heaven at both my fruit in you and your fruit in others
Multitudes touched/saved as we obey the command...Don't Complain/Argue

17 Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and **rejoice with you all.** **18** For the same reason you also be glad and **rejoice with me.**

Paul's life was going to be a sacrifice for Jesus Christ, either in life or in death. This was a source of gladness and joy for Paul, and he wants the Philippians to adopt the same attitude. [Guzik]

- **I'm glad/rejoice:** You are continuing in the work
- **Be glad/rejoice:** I continue to work...for how long I don't know

SUMMARY Light Bearers

III. Two Examples Timothy and Epaphroditus

19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. 20 For I have **no one like-minded**, who will **sincerely care** for your state. 21 For **all seek their own**, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. 22 But you know his **proven character**, that as a son with *his* father he served with me in the gospel. 23 Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. 24 But I trust in the Lord that **I myself shall also come shortly**.

I'm sending Timothy to see how you are

1 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, a true son in the faith

- **Disciple of Paul:** Like-minded and "rare"
 1. Cares about you sincerely
 2. Proven character as he worked with me
 3. Served with me as a son

Almost everyone else I could think to send sought their own... What do I get?

- **Timothy was always faithful:** I can count on him to represent my heart

Proverbs 13:17 ... a faithful ambassador brings health.

- **Timothy comes to refresh you...**in place of me till I get there

Proverbs 25:13 Like the cold of snow in time of harvest Is a **faithful messenger** to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters.

- **Contrast with unfaithful:** Stabbed back, getting drunk, secret porn, can't count on
Timmy makes me happy. I can trust him to make you happy.

I'm sending him to find out how you are

- Timothy Commended
- **Epaphroditus Commended:** Second example...

25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you **Epaphroditus**, my **brother**, **fellow worker**, and **fellow soldier**, but **your messenger** and the one who ministered to my need...

- **Epaphroditus:** Brought care package to Paul from Philippi previously...

Philippians 4:18 [Later] ... I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

1. My Brother
2. Fellow Worker
3. Fellow Soldier

26 since he was **longing for you all**, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but

God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have **sorrow upon sorrow.**

Sick/almost died. Worried about you being worried about him

God healed him saving me from great sorrow

- God does not heal everyone...**God did not heal Paul**
- **Prayed 3 times for thorn in flesh:** My grace is sufficient

God does what God does...for His glory

John 11:4 [Jesus hears best friend is sick] ... **"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."** ... **6** So, when He heard that he was sick, He **stayed two more days** in the place where He was.

28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. **29** Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; **30** because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply **what was lacking in your service toward me.**

**I sent him to you as soon as he was well
He almost died bringing your gift to me and for the sake of Christ**

There was a lack in all the Philippians' generosity and good intentions until the gift finally made its way to Paul's need. **[Guzik]**

- **So...Receive him with gladness:** People should make us glad...not stuff

Hold guys like these two in high regard...few and far between. Rare. Special Ops

Philippians 3:17 ... note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

- **Two Examples of guys Paul could count on:** Timothy/Epaphroditus

Luke 10:2 ... "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few..."

Ch. 1 Key to Joy: Conscious choice to **see the good in every situation**

Ch. 2 Key to Joy: Conscious choice to **humble ourselves**

Ch. 3 Key to Joy: Conscious choice to **focus ahead and not behind**