

# Calvary Chapel Women's Study

## Lesson 2

### Philippians 2

Read Philippians 2:1-4

1. Define the following terms from the passage.

- Consolation
  
- Comfort
  
- Fellowship
  
- Affection
  
- Mercy
  
- Like-minded
  
- One accord
  
- Selfish ambition
  
- Conceit
  
- Lowliness of mind
  
- Esteem
  
- Own interests

2. The Greek word translated "if" could also be translated since. Paul is not questioning whether there is consolation in Christ but is stating a fact about what is true in Christ. Share the consolation you have found in following Jesus.
  
3. How has the love of Christ been a source of comfort to you?
  
4. The word fellowship means to share together. What kinds of things do we share in as a result of the work of the Spirit in our lives?
  
5. Paul desires the church to be like-minded. The word mind is a key term throughout the book of Philippians. Look carefully at the passage and describe what kind of a mind we are supposed to have?
  
6. How have you been demonstrating this mind in your relationships with others?

**For Discussion**

- A. Paul writes in verse 3 that we should esteem others better than ourselves. Look carefully at verse 4, what practical way does Paul say we should do this?
  - Take some time to think about the interests of others and write a practical way you can observe this verse today. Share how you put this into practice this week.

## Read Philippians 2:5-11

This is one of the most amazing passages in the New Testament as Paul describes Christ becoming a man, accomplishing His purposes and being exalted in glory.

### **For Discussion**

- B. Verse 5 begins with an exhortation for us to have the mind of Christ. In your own words describe what that mind looks like.
- C. Paul writes in verse 6-7 that although Jesus was in the form of God He made Himself of no reputation and took on the form of a man. How should the actions of Jesus affect the way we view ourselves and others?
1. The word “form” is used in verse 6 to speak of Jesus being equal with God the Father, and in verse 7 of Jesus being a bondservant. This is an illustration of the humility found in Jesus. In what ways can you show this same kind of humility in your life?
  2. Jesus did not stop at becoming a man or even becoming a servant. What do we learn about the humility of Jesus from verse 8?
  3. According to verse 9 what was the result of Jesus lowering Himself?
  4. Remember this passage is used as an illustration to teach us the need for humility and to treat others better than ourselves. What can we learn from verse 9 about the result of taking the low place and exalting others above ourselves?
  5. What do verses 10-11 teach us about the position Jesus currently holds?

**For Discussion**

- D. Paul explains that a day is coming when every knee will bow to Christ and every tongue will confess that He is Lord. What are the benefits of bowing before Him now? What will be the consequences for those who refuse to bow to Christ?
- E. The final phrase of verse 11 reads "to the glory of God the Father." Everything Jesus did was to bring glory to His Father. How can you apply this as an example in your life?

**Read Philippians 2:12-17**

1. Therefore is a word that brings a thought toward a conclusion. How does Paul's description of Christ in verse 9-11 motivate you to keep the charge given in verse 12?
  
2. Define the following terms from verse 12.
  - Beloved
  
  - Obeyed
  
  - Salvation
  
  - Work
  
  - Fear
  
3. What do you think it means to work out your salvation with fear?
  
4. In verse 13, what does Paul promise that God is doing for the believer?

5. What command are we given in verse 14?

6. Define the word "All".

**For Discussion**

F. Why do you think God is so opposed to complaining?

- How does doing things without complaining help us shine the light of Christ in the world?
- Besides putting complaining on hold, what other ways can we live blameless and without fault in the world?
- How does living like this work to draw others to Christ?

7. In verse 16, what does Paul say we should hold fast to?

- What are some ways to hold fast to the word?

8. What do you think vain labor is?

- How can a believer be sure to arrive at the day of Christ and NOT to have labored in vain?

**For Discussion**

- G. According to the ATS Bible Dictionary a drink offering was "A small quantity of wine, part of which was to be poured on the sacrifice or meat offering, and the residue given to the priests." When Paul refers to himself as a drink offering he is stating that his life served to enhance the offering of others. How can you act as a drink offering to help others more effectively serve Jesus?
- H. Notice Paul associates joy with serving Christ and others. How have you found joy in serving Jesus?

**Read Philippians 2:19-24**

1. According to verse 19, whom was Paul sending to Philippi?
  - Why did he send him?
  - Why was Timothy chosen above others? (Phil 2:20)
2. Paul refers to Timothy as being like a son to him. What does that say about their relationship?
  - How can you be like Paul was to Timothy to someone else?
  - How can you be like a Timothy to someone else?
3. According to verse 22, what was the focus of their service together?

4. How do you think Timothy proved his character to Paul?
5. According to verse 24, what confidence did Paul have?

### Read Philippians 2:25-30

1. Write down everything you learn about Epaphroditus from the passage.
2. Why was Epaphroditus distressed?
3. What does that say to you about his character?

### For Discussion

#### I. How can you be a...

- Fellow worker
- Fellow soldier
- Messenger of the gospel

#### 4. Why should men like Epaphroditus be held in high esteem?

- What are the proper ways to show esteem to such men?
- Why is it wrong for a person to pursue being esteemed by others?

**For Discussion**

- J. Look at the phrase, "not regarding his life to supply what is lacking in your service." What does that say to you about how we should serve Jesus?



# Others

*Philippians 2:17-18*

***“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. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.”***

Prior to the death and resurrection of Christ, the prescribed manner of worship of God included an elaborate system of sacrifices. Every morning, every evening, and on prescribed dates throughout the year, animals were offered as burnt offerings to provide atonement for the sins of the people. Each of the sacrifices pointed in one way or another to Christ. As the Son of God, His death provided more than all the offerings could ever do. Peter wrote,

***“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, . . . ” 1 Peter 3:18***

It is not difficult to see a portrait of Christ in the Passover lamb, the scapegoat, or the sin offerings, but what of this drink offering? Did you notice Paul does not refer to Christ, but to himself as this offering? The drink offering, described in Numbers 15, was designed to accompany the various offerings. If a person brought a free will offering to the Lord, to express thanks to God for who He is, and all He has done, they were to include a jug of wine as a drink offering. This offering did not provide atonement, but accompanied the offering, making the aroma that much sweeter, as it was laid upon the altar. Paul saw his role in the life of others like that. He realized, each individual must present themselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to the Lord, but he would spend his life helping to make the sacrifice of others sweeter.

As we follow his story throughout the New Testament, we see he exemplifies what it means to love your neighbor as yourself. His whole life was about living for Christ, as an example to others. He spent his time, effort, and energies ensuring the Gospel was declared, and the Christian was well equipped to live for Christ. He risked his comforts and even his life, to bring the message of salvation to those who had never heard.

How do you suppose our impact upon the world would change if we saw ourselves as a drink offering, being poured out on the sacrifice of others? What kind of influence could we have for the kingdom of God, if we looked at ourselves as being in the lives of others, to help them come to Christ, and grow in Him? Writing to the Corinthians, Paul said, *“I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls.” 2 Corinthians 12:15*

Let’s determine to live like that, impacting all around us for heaven’s sake.

Pastor Jim

