

I. Intro

A. Text: **Phil. 1:1-27-2:16**

B. Recap: Paul's written correspondence to the church he planted at Philippi.

1. In Prison again (not for a crime committed, but for Christ confessed).

*²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that **whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, (Phil. 1:27)***

II. Only Walk Worthy of the Gospel (Whether I ever see you again or not; that I may hear your testimony).

1. I may never get out of these chains. But let me hear about what God is doing in the Philippian church.
2. Only request: Let your life preach the gospel without words.
 - a. Only let the way you deal with your hard-headed kids, preach the gospel.
 - b. Only let the way you respond to disrespectful, road raged motorists... preach the gospel.
 - c. Only let the way that you interact with other believers (quick to forgive, abounding in love)... preach the gospel.
3. May your life be governed by the implications of the gospel.
 - a. Conduct refers to citizenship. Conduct reveals citizenship!
 - i. Jesus extended mercy to one who didn't deserve it ...
 - ii. Jesus forgave one who didn't deserve forgiveness...

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- iii. Jesus gave his very life and livelihood to those who could never pay Him back...

A. Be Single-Minded (Phil. 1:27-2:2)

²⁷ *Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you **stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.** (Phil. 1:27)*

1. Uniqueness is a blessing from God.
 - a. Different Giftings
 - b. Different points of view on non-essential doctrines
 - c. Different preferences in worship style and worship songs.
2. Uniqueness without solidarity of purpose and direction is only confusion.
 - a. Band requires singleness of purpose, timing, and overall vision in order to make music.
 - b. Offensive football boasts several different skills, positions and sizes. Unique freedoms are thrown out the window for the sake of the team.
3. Singleness in mission. A singleness in vision.
 - a. Wrestle (Strive) together for the faith of the gospel
 - i. Strive, but not against one another. Strive in the same direction and with the same timing as others.
 - ii. Team work makes the dream work.
 - b. Do all things for the furtherance of the proclamation of the gospel.
 - i. Put away personal preferences for the proclamation of the gospel.
4. Single-mindedly Fearless

²⁸ *and **not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.** (Phil. 1:28)*

- a. Our boldness in Christ is proof of our eternal safety.
 - i. Our boldness reminds those who reject Christ that their security is shaky at best

²⁹ For to you it **has been granted** on behalf of Christ, **not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.** (Phil. 1:29)

- b. Suffering for us is not an unconquerable problem, but an unquestionable privilege and promise.
 - i. **John 16:33**: “In this world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, ‘I have overcome the world’.”
 - ii. **2 Tim. 3:12**: “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution”.

5. Single-Mindedness Is A Response from Love

¹ Therefore if there is any **consolation in Christ**, if any **comfort of love**, if any **fellowship of the Spirit**, if any **affection and mercy**, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. (Phil. 2:1-2)

- a. “If” is almost sarcastic.
 - b. “Since the following is true” (No doubt)
 - i. If you’ve ever been encouraged (consoled) by Christ
 - ii. If you’ve ever been comforted by the love of Christ
 - iii. If you enjoy “koinonia” with Holy Spirit
 - iv. If you’ve ever experienced the passionate and almost violent mercies of God toward you,
6. If/Since you enjoy true love in a personal way... Fulfill my joy.
- a. Make My Joy Full
 - i. Hold fast to the same love.

Being of one accord (sympsychos #4861): **sym** (same or together with) + **pyschos** (soul, seat of desires and affections). United in affections and desires.

- ii. Hold fast to the same affections.
- iii. Hold fast to the same mind.

B. Be Selfless Servants (Phil. 2:3-11)

³ Let **nothing be done through selfish ambition** or conceit, but in **lowliness of mind** let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (Phil. 2:3-4)

1. When You Do... Don't do it for you. Don't look out for your own good.
 - a. Do what you do for everyone else's good.
 - i. Don't worry about your position, protection, promotion.
 - b. Lowliness of Mind: Do it as if they are better than you; as if they are more important than you.
 - i. Do it as if you are the servant and they are the boss.
 - ii. Do it as unto the Lord and not to men.
 - c. What would the church look like if we ran around looking out for the interest of those around us?
 - i. Church, city, marriage

Question: Are you too anointed, too special, too important to make yourself someone else's servant? Is that a desirable characteristic?

2. Jesus: I Can Show You Better Than I Can Tell You (Phil. 2:5-11)

⁵ 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**, (Phil. 2:5-6)

- a. Exhort you to let the mind of Christ rule your life (v.5)
- b. Jesus: **Being** in the Form of God (v.6)
 - i. Very being is Eternal God in every way.
 - ii. Denotes his unchangeable nature and essence.
 - iii. He's, in being, God
 - iv. Jesus is the brightness of the Father's glory and the exact representation of His nature (Heb.
 - v. Image of the invisible of God, firstborn over all creation (Col. 1:15)

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- vi. In Character and attributes Jesus is fully God. No less than God in every way.

⁶ *Who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped**, (Phil. 2:6- NASB)*

- c. No Robbery: Did not consider equality with God as something to be grasped.
 - i. Wasn't something that He had to seize, as if it didn't naturally belong to Him.
 - ii. Equality with God the Father was His by nature.
 - iii. Possessed equality with God the Father, but he refused to grasp cling to it.
 - iv. Jesus was willing to give it up

⁷ ***but made Himself of no reputation**, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. (Phil. 2:7)*

⁷ ***but emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (Phil. 2:7 – NASB)*

- d. Emptied Himself (Poured Out Until there was no more)
 - i. Not His Deity because that was His very essence and being.
 - ii. Not His Nature
 - iii. Emptied His Privileges
 - iv. Gave up His place of Glory
 - v. Set it aside (veiled)
 - vi. Gave up His Beauty, riches and honor
 - vii. Is. 53:2b-3: *He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*
 - viii. *Gave up his omnipotence (Could have called a thousand angels to pull him off the cross)*

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- e. Some People use privilege to distinguish themselves from others, to Lord over them

⁷ *but made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men. (Phil. 2:7)*

- f. Went from the King of Glory (no tears, pain, disease, death, etc.), to a ... man.
 - i. Not just any man
 - ii. Not from the King of Glory to the King of Earth...
- g. King of Glory to a Slave
 - i. Jesus emptied Himself of Privilege and accepted a slave's place to serve others.
 - ii. **Matt. 20:28**: "*Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many*"

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. (Phil. 2:8)*

- h. Very **being** was as a man (mystery of the incarnation)
 - i. Fully God + Fully God.
 - ii. Looked like a man.
 - iii. Nobody knew that He was Messiah by looking at him.
 - iv. He didn't wear a Messiah T-Shirt, with the latest Christian bumper sticker.
 - v. He looked just like every other Middle-Eastern, Jewish young man.
- i. Humbled Himself, and became obedient even to the point of death.
 - i. Selfless sacrifice set Jesus apart.
 - ii. Although He didn't have to grasp at being God (He was), Jesus gave his time and his very life for the benefit of others.
- j. Let this mind be in you: Selfless Servants

¹² *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, **not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;** (Phil. 2:12)*

C. Be Shining Lights (**Phil. 2:12-18**)

1. Paul was exhorting as a father in the faith.
 - a. Everyone is super-spiritual when in the presence of spiritual authorities
 - b. What you do outside of their presence is what matters.
2. Work it Out: Salvation is working in you to produce something out of you. (**v.12b**)
 - a. Let what God changed on the inside (your heart), spread to the outside.
 - i. Purpose in your heart to produce on the outside, what's been accomplished on the inside.
 - ii. Not just talking about it.
 - iii. Not suppressing the move of God to the church house.
 - b. Be fashioned on the outside according to your salvation on the inside.
 - i. Allow salvation on the inside to finish the work on the outside.
 - c. This does not set aside the grace of God. Saved by grace through faith and the result of all that is good works!
 - i. **Eph. 2:8-9:** ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.*
 - ii. **Eph. 2:10:** ¹⁰ *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; (Phil. 2:12)

3. Work it Out With Fear and Trembling?

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- a. Could be taught as a “God did his best, now you do the rest” thing.
 - i. *“God saved you, now it’s up to you to do the work”.*
 - ii. *“Now do right (with fear and trembling)”*
 - b. Fear= dread and terror. But also means the reverence that a woman has for her husband.
 - i. Denotes relationship. Fear in relationship; not fear of punishment and banishment.
 - c. **Biblical Usage:** *“Fear and trembling is always used to describe the anxiety of one who distrusts his own ability to meet all the requirements, yet faithfully walks it out anyway”*

4. Work it out, Remembering Who Does the Work

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

- a. God did it. God does it.
 - i. We take the credit for none of it.
 - ii. Even the desire to do right: That’s God!
 - iii. You were created for good works.
 - iv. But it’s all Him doing it
 - v. Let Him do it!!!!!!!

¹⁴ *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, (Phil. 2:14-15)*

III. Conclusion: Fulfill my joy by **Shining as Light** in a Dark World (Outline)

A. Same Mind, Same Love

- 1. Blameless, harmless
- 2. Complaintless, Disputeless
- 3. Loving on one another
 - a. Serving one another (Just like Jesus)
 - b. Preferring one another (Just like Jesus)

B. Live transparently in the middle of dark and lost world.

- 1. People would see God working in you.

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2. ...God working out of you salvation.
 3. ...With fear and trembling.
 - a. With an utter distrust in your own ability.
 - b. Faith to walk it out anyway,
 - c. Knowing that it is God who works in you
 4. That in the middle of a crooked, dark world you would shine as lights.
 - a. **Matt. 5:14:** *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill that cannot be hidden."*

¹⁶ holding 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. (Phil. 2:16)

C. Do All this With the Proper Focus: The Day of Christ

1. Eyes on the target.
 - a. Rejoicing now, but I shall rejoice at the return of Christ.
2. Exhortation: Hold on until the finish line, Letting God do the work (all the work).
3. Confident that He will finish the work

¹⁶ holding 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. 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. (Phil. 2:16-18)

*This is cause for rejoicing!

D. Even if I am poured out as a drink offering (murdered for service to you on behalf of Christ)

1. I can look at what God has done in you and declare that it was not in vain.
 - a. It was worth it.
2. In this I have joy and will rejoice.
 - a. As you fulfill this, my joy... Rejoice with me.