

Philippians Part 3 HANDOUT

11/26/23

PHIL. 2:1-4 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

- Jesus becomes the model - especially in humility
- Vs. 3-4 is the main heartbeat
 - Don't live a selfish life...or a self-centered universe.
 - "Vain conceit" - a person who cherishes exaggerated ideas of their own importance.
- Vs. 3b and 4 then is the mark of what we SHOULD do - live humbly.

KEY: You're never more like Christ than when you're serving. You're never more like the enemy than when you are selfish.

PHIL. 2:5-9 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

- Jesus became the perfect model when He emptied Himself and took the form of a servant:
 - The term *kenosis* refers to the doctrine of Christ's "self-emptying" in His incarnation.
 - Jesus did not empty Himself of His divine attributes
 - Jesus added to His divine nature a human nature as He humbled Himself for us.

PHIL 2:9-11 ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PHIL 2:12 - Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling...

- The Greek word translated "fear" in this context can equally mean "reverence" or "respect".
- The Greek verb rendered "work out" means "to continually work to bring something to completion or fruition."

Paul is inviting the Philippians to be so on fire for God that the world will take notice!

PHIL 2:19-21 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

- Paul says there is only ONE person that is like-minded with him

PHIL 2:25-26 But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill.

KEY: We are encouraged in joyfully obeying God by looking to the examples we see in Jesus and other Christians.

LifePOINT - Joyful sacrifice means we obey God in our words, actions, and thoughts no matter what.