

Philippians 2:1-16 Notes

- Paul is able to get into some rich spiritual principles due to the maturity of the church at Philippi.
 - Not everyone is able to handle this type of teaching:
 - **[1 Corinthians 3:1-4 ESV] [1] But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. [2] I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, [3] for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? [4] For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?**
 - Paul has to keep things on a very basic level with some churches
 - They are people who still haven't grasped the basics of their faith, still operating on an elementary level
 - Immaturity → jealousy and strife (v3)
 - Paul accuses the Corinthians of acting "merely human"
 - As we discussed last week, Philippians has a different feel
 - Able to discuss what a mature believer's life should look like, because Philippians want to grow in their faith.
- Last week:
 - The Philippian church partnered with Paul as he spread the gospel into Europe
 - He spoke about how God would bring that good work to completion on the day of Christ
 - He prayed that their love would abound and they would grow in their faith:
 - **[Philippians 1:9-11 ESV] [9] And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, [10] so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, [11] filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.**
 - Paul explained that he would be delivered (dead or alive)
 - **[Philippians 1:21 ESV] [21] For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**
 - Paul discussed living in such a way so as to not be ashamed at the Judgement Seat of Christ **[Philippians 1:27-28 ESV] [27] Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, [28] and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.**
- "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ"
 - Gospel was still new
 - Jesus had given one last command before being taken up into heaven:
 - **[Matthew 28:18-20 ESV] [18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."**
 - This was the Great Commission
 - Paul nearing the end of his life and God would be raising up generations of believers to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth.

- Not only did the gospel need to be spread, but also preserved
 - **[Galatians 2:4-5 ESV] [4] Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in--who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery-- [5] to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.**
- There is a lot at stake:
 - Having their “manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ” was critical → God was calling them to advance the gospel
- Today, the Great Commission has still not been fulfilled
 - God still using generations of believers to spread the Good News
 - Critical that OUR manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ

[Philippians 1:29-30 ESV] For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, [30] engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

- Paul is writing to these specific people about the fact that they were going to suffer for their faith
 - Vs. 30 - engaging in the same conflict that Paul is in
 - Vs. 29 - specifically written to the Philippian church, and should not be applied to all believers
- Last week, we talked about asking God what obedience looks each day
 - If God calls you to suffer for him, he will give you the grace to be obedient in the face of it.
 - If He isn't calling you in that direction, then you have no business going
- Paul just told the Philippians that God was calling them to suffer

[Philippians 2:1-2 ESV] [1] So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, [2] complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

- “If” here does not indicate a condition - Not questioning whether there is any encouragement in Christ
 - He is using it to make an argument
 - He's arguing that “if” these things that we know to be true are indeed true, then take just as seriously my charge to have the “same mind”, “same love”, and be in “full accord and of one mind”
- Just before he was arrested, Jesus prayed for those who would be saved in Garden of Gethsemane:
 - **[John 17:20-21 ESV] [20] "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, [21] that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**
 - ONE THING that Jesus prayed for you and I about in the garden
 - **[Philippians 1:27-28 ESV] [27] Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, [28] and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.**
 - The enemy knows that he can do damage when the church is divided

[Philippians 2:3-4 ESV] [3] Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- When the individuals in the church take on this attitude, they are able to
 - **[Philippians 2:2 ESV] ...be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.**

- Jesus addressed this when he answered the following question from a Pharisee lawyer:
 - **[Matthew 22:36-40 ESV] [36] "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" [37] And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. [38] This is the great and first commandment. [39] And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. [40] On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."**
 - This life is not about us!
 - Jesus just gave the two commandments on which the Law and the Prophets depend
 - Love God & Love your Neighbor
 - Self is not in that equation

[Philippians 2:5 ESV] [5] Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

- Confusing translation. - NIV is much clearer:
 - **[Philippians 2:5 NIV] [5] In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:**
 - Paul has just introduced the principle of humility in our relationships, and now he's using Christ as our example:

[Philippians 2:6-11 ESV] [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Paul is using Christ's ultimate demonstration of humility to illustrate how we should put others ahead of ourselves
- **[Philippians 2:5-7 ESV] [5] Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.**
 - Jesus is God
 - Form of God - contrast to the form that Jesus will take in the next verse
 - Jesus is equal to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit
 - **[John 1:1-3 ESV] [1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.**
 - He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped
 - Grasped = harpagmos (har pog MOS) = a thing to be seized upon or to be held fast, retained (read - hold on to)
 - "He did not count equality with God a thing to be held onto"
 - At no point did Jesus give up his divinity
 - There is something about being God that Jesus let go of
 - It is an aspect that God the father and God the Holy Spirit did not let go of
 - Jesus let go of the prerogatives of being God
 - Jesus voluntarily and JOYFULLY limited himself of the privileges of being God
 - **[Hebrews 12:2 ESV] [2] looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the**

cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- His glory was veiled from people
 - **[John 17:4-5 ESV] [4] I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. [5] And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.**
 - Being in a glorified state (form) is something that Jesus let go of in order to come here to and take hold of us.
- **[Philippians 2:8 ESV] [8] And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**
 - Jesus subjected himself to the limitations of being human
 - Could only be in one place at a time, got tired, got hungry, felt pain, bled, death
 - Humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death on a cross
 - The prophet Isaiah predicts how his form would be mutilated beneath that of humans:
 - **[Isaiah 52:13-14 ESV] [13] Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. [14] As many were astonished at you-- his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind--**
 - Paul referred to Jesus as having given us the ultimate example of humility
- **[Philippians 2:9-11 ESV] [9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**
 - Jesus has been exalted and given the name that is above every name
 - The day is still coming when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.
 - Remember that Paul is giving the Philippians an example to live by - the example of Christ:
 - He's told them to be of one mind
 - The example ends with Jesus being exalted → God's response to humility:
 - **[James 4:10 ESV] [10] Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.**
 - This passage in James is for us too
 - Don't worry about you - God's got you!
 - We are not here for us.
 - We are here for the glory of God, which comes through obedience.

[Philippians 2:12-13 ESV] [12] Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, [13] for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- In light of the example of Christ's example of humility and obedience...
- Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling
- What does Paul mean by "salvation" in this verse?
 - We are saved in three different ways: (past, present, and future)
 - Have been saved from the *Penalty* of sin - happened on the cross and was applied to us when we placed our faith in Christ
 - Are being saved from the *Power* of sin - this is something that the Holy Spirit enables as he continues to refine us

- It doesn't originate from us
 - JESUS is the one who grows our faith
 - When you are in the wilderness, the enemy will run you ragged by having you believe you try to work out your salvation by works that come from you.
 - This is about obedience, which comes as a result of seeking it, which happens as a result of fixing our eyes on Jesus and asking God to work in us according to his good pleasure.
 - Remember how Paul opened this portion of his letter:
 - **[Philippians 1:27 ESV] [27] Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,**
 - Then Paul continues:

[Philippians 2:14 ESV] Do all things without grumbling or disputing,
[Philippians 2:15 ESV] that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

 - Crooked and twisted generation in this lost world needs light
 - Jesus taught his disciples the same thing:
 - **[Matthew 5:14-16 ESV] [14] "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**
 - God has preserved His truth and has put his light in men through the ages

[Philippians 2:16 ESV] holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

 - They are to hold tightly to God's word, so that they will know truth, but also so that they can pass the truth on, advancing the gospel.
 - Paul looks forward to seeing the good work that God will bring to completion.