Bible Study

Philippians: Living with Joy

Chapter 2

OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS

(Warren Wiersbe)

**DISCUSSION**

Chapter 2 shows us that we can live our lives worthy of the gospel of Christ. We must have the attitude (mind) of Christ.

Christ’s example is one of selfless, sacrificial service to others.

\*What is “kenosis”? What is the “Kenosis Passage” in Philippians 2?

Selfless, sacrificial service makes me more like Christ!

II. THE SUBMISSIVE MIND—chapter 2

A. The example of Christ—2:1–11

**B. The example of Paul—2:12–18**

C. The example of Timothy—2:19–24

D. The example of Epaphroditus—2:25–30

**DISCOVERY**

II. THE SUBMISSIVE MIND—chapter 2

A. The example of Paul—2:12-18

The Example of Paul (12-18)

In verses 1-11, Paul establishes, by Christ’s example, the  which we must follow.

--Selfless, sacrificial service--

Beginning at verse 12, Paul lays out what is the divine  which enables us to live out the pattern prescribed by Jesus. *Divine enablement requires human responsibility.*

Paul says that they should  in their obedience to Christ. They should “work out [their] own salvation with fear and trembling.”

“*Work out your own salvation*” does not suggest, “Work *for* your own salvation.”

The verb “work out” carries the meaning of “work to full completion,” such as working out a problem in mathematics.

In Paul’s day it was also used for “working a mine,” that is, getting out of the mine all the valuable ore possible; or “working a field” so as to get the greatest harvest possible.

**Ephesians 2:10**

How is this accomplished? Verse 13 states “it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to His good purpose.”

We must always remember God is working in us and through us to achieve HIS purpose!

What is our church’s affirmation?

“You are created WITH a purpose, FOR a purpose, ON purpose!”

God, HIMSELF, is at work in our lives to achieve this!!

**Galatians 2:20**

Here is a valuable principle to remember: God must work  us before He can work

us.

God worked *in* Moses as he tended his father-in-law’s sheep for forty years, before He worked *through* Moses to lead the exodus from Egypt. Similarly, He worked in David, and many others.

Is God at work ***in*** me? Ephesians 3:20

The attitude in which we are to do this purposed work is given in verses 14-16a.

Everything was to be done without or.

The present tense of the verb “do” suggests that this was to be done continually.

“Complaining” is the translation of a word which reflects a bad attitude expressed in grumbling.

“Arguing” reflects a legal connotation of disputing and may refer, at least in part, to the practice of going to civil courts to settle their differences.

Evidently the believers were complaining (to God and each other) and arguing (with each other).

This diminished their testimony among the unsaved – the unregenerate – the lost.

The world’s philosophy is that joy comes from aggression: fight everybody to get what you want, and you will get it and be happy. The example of Jesus is proof enough that the world’s philosophy is wrong. He never used a sword or any other weapon; yet He won the greatest battle in history—the battle against sin and death and hell.

Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 79.

Rather, when we do everything without grumbling and arguing, we stand before the world – a crooked and perverse generation – like shining stars!

And this because we are holding firmly to the word of life – the Word of God!

Paul would then be able to boast (glory) on the day of Christ that he had not labored in vain with them.

Paul viewed himself as being poured out like a drink offering on behalf of the Philippians.

**v.17; 2 Timothy 4:6**

Despite what he believed was his impending death (this would come about much later), he was not sorrowing but still rejoicing, even in the midst of his suffering.

“Sacrifice and service” are marks of the submissive mind, and the submissive mind experiences joy even in the midst of suffering.

**DIRECTION**

Read Philippians 2

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