Bible Study

Philippians: Living with Joy

Chapter 2

OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS

(Warren Wiersbe)

**DISCUSSION**

Key theme of Philippians is the joy of the Lord

Key verse of Philippians is Chapter 3:1

“In addition, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. To write to you again about this is no trouble for me and is a safeguard for you.”

I. THE SINGLE MIND—chapter 1

A. The fellowship of the Gospel—1:1–11

B. The furtherance of the Gospel—1:12–26

C. The faith of the Gospel—1:27–30

In this first chapter, Paul has challenged the Philippian church to “live [their lives] worthy of the Gospel of Christ.”

To do this effectively, the mind must be yielded to closely following the leadership of Christ.

Chapter 2 shows us how…

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 Christ—2:1–11

The Example of Christ (1-11)

“The secret of joy in spite of circumstances is the single mind. The secret of joy in spite of people is the submissive mind.”

-Warren W. Wiersbe

Paul opens this chapter appealing to the highest possible spiritual motives:

* encouragement in Christ (Does your life in Christ give you strength?)
* consolation of love (Does his love comfort you?)
* fellowship with the Spirit (Do we share together in the Spirit?)
* affection and mercy (Do you have mercy and kindness?)

He makes this appeal to encourage them to work toward, not division and rivalry.

This unity and love is described in verse 2 as having the same *mind*, *love*, *unity in spirit* and *purpose*.

**1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Peter 3:8**

\*What does it mean to have the same mind and same love? (Harmony)

Verse 3 shows that selfish ambition and conceit  unity. To defend against this, we should in humility, be “others” focused.

“…the believer’s eyes are turned away from himself and focused on the needs of others.”

-Warren Wiersbe

We must prioritize the needs of others. (v 4)

**Proverbs 19:17, 28:27**

Jesus’ example is our guide. (v 5) “Adopt the same attitude as Christ Jesus…”

Remember that outlook determines outcome. If we our leading attitude is *selfishness*, it will result in division and destruction.

\*So, what is the mind/attitude of Christ?

Simply stated, the mind of Christ can be expressed in this way: Jesus did not think of himself; he thought of others.

A reporter was interviewing a successful job counselor who had placed hundreds of workers in their vocations quite happily. When asked the secret of his success, the man replied: “If you want to find out what a worker is really like, don’t give him responsibilities—give him privileges. Most people can handle responsibilities if you pay them enough, but it takes a real leader to handle privileges. A leader will use his privileges to help others and build the organization; a lesser man will use privileges to promote himself.

Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 74.

Jesus had the privilege of being equal with God yet did not selfishly use this for his benefit. Rather, He used that privilege for the benefit of mankind.

Jesus did not simply *think* about others first, He put action to His attitude.

At verse 7 we are introduced to a very interesting Greek word, “*kenoo*” (*key na oh*). The word means “to make empty”. This passage is known widely as the “*Kenosis passage*.”

Of what did He empty himself?

“He didn’t empty himself of deity; he didn’t stop being God. Rather, he poured the fullness of His deity into His humanity. He took on human flesh and became a servant. He didn’t let his deity stop him from expressing his humanity. -Dr. Tony Evans

This passage demonstrates the incarnation of Christ – He was fully God, and He was fully man. The theological term for this is the “*Hypostatic Union*”. Meaning there are two natures in one person, unmixed forever.

The attitude of Christ is one of .

The attitude of Christ is one of . (v 8)

Many people are willing to serve others if it does not cost them anything.

This verse shows that the cost of Jesus’ obedience was “death on the cross.”

“Ministry that costs nothing accomplishes nothing. If there is to be any blessing, there must be some bleeding.” -Dr. J.H. Jowett

When our minds are submissive to God, we will not avoid sacrifice.

Sacrifice and service go together if it is true Christian ministry!

Selfless, sacrificial service makes me more like Christ!

God was glorified in Christ’s selfless, sacrificial service. (9-11)

Jesus humbled Himself for others, and God highly exalted Him; and the result of this exaltation is glory to God.

Please don’t miss this:

* There is no exaltation without Christ’s humiliation.
* There is no blessing without the shedding of blood.
* There is no resurrection without the crucifixion.

We must be careful to recognize that truth of scripture which states, that if we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12).

The whole purpose of Christ’s humiliation and exaltation is the glory of God.

**John 17:1**

The person with the submissive mind, as he lives for others, must expect sacrifice and service; but in the end, it is going to lead to glory.

**1 Peter 5:6; Matthew 5:16**

**DIRECTION**

Read Philippians 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Robert P. Lightner, “Philippians,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 646–647.

Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 63.

Andrew Knowles, The Bible Guide, 1st Augsburg books ed. (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 2001), 624.

Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary

The Tony Evans Study Bible, Holman Bible Publishers, 2019