

The letter to the Philippians is letter of tremendous encouragement and joy. Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit writes this letter to thank the church in Philippi for their support and to instruct them on the issue of unity. As we walk "step by step" through this letter I am confident that God will bless our time, study and discussion.

Philippians 2

V1-2 *therefore*-Since, or, because we have these things. Discuss the qualities listed and how they can influence our mindset.

1. *comfort of love*
2. *fellowship of the Spirit*
3. *affection*
4. *mercy*

V3 *Let nothing be done through strife of vain glory (KJV)*. Such as striving, or competing against another person's work or against another person's ministry. It is this sort of selfish ambition seen within the Garden of Eden that can ultimately ruin a person's life. However, **selfless** ambition; putting others first, is the very example we see from Jesus in the Gospel. (Mark 10:45)

V4- How do you do both; "look out for your own interests" and at the same time be looking out "for the interests of others?"

V5-7 The ultimate example of servant hood and humility was Jesus! He came from the highest of positions to be a lowly servant for mankind. When the disciples were arguing about which one of them was the "Greatest" Jesus said to them in Mark 9:35 "*If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.*"

V8- More than appearing as man, He humbled Himself. (Luke 22:41,42.) The cross was reserved for criminals, and the outcasts of society, yet the God of all power allowed men to inflict pain upon Him by way of crucifixion. (John 1:10,11; Hebrews 12:2)

V9-11 Victory on the cross is a gift for all of humanity, and some will receive His gift and bow with joy. Sadly others will reject the gift, and bow in humiliation on their final day of judgment.

V12a- Obedience should be an act of love, whether anyone is watching or not.
(Colossians 3:22-24)

V12b,13- Working out your salvation means you have something. Working for your salvation is when you are trying to get something. V12 must be applied through the understanding of v13. God is working in you! What an honor/privilege God would inhabit and lead us! Greater still is that we could somehow bring pleasure to Him!!

V14-This is instruction, not a suggestion!

Personal Reflection

Reflect upon, how you can live out V14 within your own life?
What are we trying to accomplish when we complain, when we dispute?

V15-We are to be lights in the world, not replicas of the world. We should be different in a positive way. (Matthew 5:14-17, Ephesians 5:8)

V16- Paul, like John had great joy in knowing that believers were maturing. (3 John 4)

V17,18 Not knowing whether he would live or die, Paul encourages the believers to stay the course with Jesus, even in the unknown.

V19-24 Paul desired to know more about the people in Philippi but there was a challenge. He had no one to send to them; *“for all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.”*

Would the same be said of us today; do we truthfully and sacrificially seek first the kingdom of God?

V25-30 Notice the warmth and personal interest that these verses contain. Notice also how Paul conveys equality towards those who serve with him. Paul did have authority but he did not imply nor present superiority. The work of God is accomplished through humble servants who are willing to lay their lives down so God will be glorified; no matter what the personal cost.

My Memory Verse for this week: _____