

FOCUS GROUPS

Philippians Chapter 2

The letter to the Philippians is a letter of tremendous encouragement and joy. Paul writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit sends this letter to thank the church in Philippi for their support and to instruct them on some issues of unity that had come. As we walk “*step by step*” through this letter I am confident that God will bless our time, study, and discussion.

V1 ~ *therefore*-Since, or “because we have these things.” Identify and discuss the qualities listed and how they affect the way we live.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

V2 ~ The emphasis is “since” we have received we should extend. Paul realized that Christian unity was essential in honoring Jesus. Discuss the differences between unity and uniformity, then discuss how they work together?

V3 ~ Ambition is not evil, it is the selfish ambition that began in the garden of Eden that brings down a man. Putting others first is not merely a concept it is the very example of God in the person of Jesus.

Let nothing be done through strife of vain glory (KJV). Striving, competing against another or another ministry is wrong.

V4 ~ Discuss how you can “*look out for your own interests*” and at the same time looking out “*for the interests of others.*”

V5 ~ The ultimate example of servanthood and humility!

V6,7 ~ From the highest position to a lowly servant, despised and rejected by men. He emptied Himself of Divine power and came as a man.

V8 ~ More than appearing as man, He humbled Himself. (Luke 22:41,42) The cross was reserved for criminals, the outcast 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 was for *all* of humanity. Some will acknowledge Jesus unto salvation. Others in judgment will acknowledge Jesus as God to their condemnation; *Every tongue will confess Jesus Christ is Lord!*

V12 ~ In light of all that has been presented to this point, live like you believe it no matter who is watching! *Work out* - Not work *for*, but rather work *out* all the implications, details, ramifications that the reality of salvation reveals. **V12** must be applied through the understanding of **V13**.

V13 ~ God is working in you! What an honor and privilege that God would inhabit and lead us! Greater still is that we could somehow bring pleasure to Him!

V14 ~ This is instruction, not a suggestion!

V15 ~ We are to be “lights” in the world, not “replicas” of the world. We should be different in a positive way.

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.

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, 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: _____

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ...”

PHILIPPIANS 1:6