

To the church in Philippi

# Philippians



## Lesson 2—Having the Mind of Christ

Philippians 2:1-30

### I. Being one in Christ Jesus, looking out for one another (v.1-4)

- a. (v.1,2) *If there was any of God's graces in the heart, Paul says, "fulfill my joy" by doing the will of Christ and being united as "one" in Christ! To have "one mind" in Christ. **How is it that we can truly have this oneness in Christ? We must be seeking Him and His word prayerfully.** The Spirit and the word of God alone can bring us into such a true unity of fellowship. Those on the day of Pentecost labored for such an experience in Christ (Acts 2:1). The believers who were converted on that day felt a very special oneness (Acts 2:41-47). **There is weakness in divisions, but there is strength when we have a united stand in Christ (Matthew 12:25; John 17:20,21). God is "one" and He desires us to be together in Him (Ephesians 4:3-6).***
- b. (v.3,4) *Selfishness, pride, and self-serving purposes cause terrible divisions and strife. This is what happened in Heaven with Lucifer (Revelation 12:7; Isaiah 14:12-14). When every man makes himself to be "a god" then division and disaster will occur. But, when we surrender and submit our wills to the will of Christ, beautiful things will happen (Matthew 26:39). We must have humble minds, submitted to Christ, and looking out for the good of others—**look out for their best interests, not your own!***

### II. The mind and economy of Christ: We must live by it! (v.5-11)

- a. (v.1,8) *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus..." Having the mind of Christ is having a mind humility, self-sacrificing love, and service to others. Do we have this mind? If not, then we must seek it. We must seek it far more than we ever have! Christ Jesus desires this. Do you and I desire it? To humble ourselves for the sake of serving others, and to be "obedient" to God—even to the point of death, is what Jesus desires of us (Revelation 12:11; John 12:23-25). The words of Christ here from John 12 are quite hard to our sinful nature and pride. Jesus desires that our selfish nature be crucified and that selfish interest should die. Our will must be surrendered to Him entirely!*
- b. (v.8-11) ***The economy and way of Christ is entirely different from that of the world, and of Lucifer.** Jesus laid himself down low, and the Father lifts him up above all! Satan (as well as fallen men today) tried to lift himself up to exalt himself, and he will be entirely cast down and destroyed (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-18). Christ's first disciples even argued over themselves sinfully about who should be the greatest; Jesus rebuked this kind of pride (Matthew 18:1-4; Mark 9:33-35). If there was hope for these guys to be transformed in character then there is surely hope for us! We must learn the lesson from Christ that "Before honor is humility" (Proverbs 15:33; 18:12). "Every knee..." will eventually bow to Jesus Christ whether they choose to serve Him or not. All will be compelled to admit that He is the Lord of all, though some must admit in their surrender in the moments preceding the final death!*

- III. Growing in the grace and dignified Character of Christ is a choice involving the surrender of our selfish will to the All-glorious and perfect will of God (v.12-18)** *We must choose to submit to Christ and His holiness or else we shall never experience the full outworking of His grace and glory in our lives!*
- a. *(v.12,13) We must surrender and allow our wills, weak as they are, to be submitted to Christ's will. Then let God work out His will in our lives! On our own, we cannot be overcomers, but by submitting willingly our own will to the will of Christ, then victory can be had, because Christ will be working out His will within us! There is a work that no one else can do for us. It is a work that only we can do, and that is the work of surrender to Christ! We must take the personal responsibility of doing this before God! No one else will be left to blame, but we ourselves, if we have failed to let this work be done in us!*
  - b. *(v.14,15) We will surely shine as lights in this world as we begin reflecting the image of Christ and not ourselves or the world. We must be unlike the world, but like Christ! Christ is our light whom we must walk after faithfully (John 12:35; 1 John 1:5-7).*
  - c. *(v.16-18) If we "...hold fast the word" then the heart of God and of His other laboring servants will be made glad! And truly, our own hearts will experience such gladness as well! Let it be our motto, "I delight to do thy will O God: Yea, thy law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).*
- IV. Desiring to send a faithful brother—Timothy (v.19-24)**
- a. *(v.22) Timothy was a faithful and trusted minister in Christ whom Paul had labored with and had developed a deep trust and respect for. He had a very sincere heart and faith, and was a diligent laborer for Christ! Paul knew this faith that was in Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5). This was a most genuine faith which could be trusted. This is the kind of faith we should pray, desire, and strive to have!*
  - b. *(v.20,21) It was a hard thing to find sincere and faithful laborers in Christ! Many simply "...seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus," though perhaps some profess Him. Paul longed to have someone "like-minded" near to him, but could find "no one!" This is often a sad reality even today!*
- V. Epaphroditus—a faithful soldier, helper, and servant of Jesus Christ (v.25-30)**
- a. *Epaphroditus set an example worthy of respect and emulation! He was a faithful soldier of Jesus Christ who endured hardship for the sake of the gospel and of helping others. The Philippians had sent him on a mission to bring service to Paul (4:18). He became terribly sick on the journey and nearly died though! Paul, said it was by the mercy of God that he lived so that sorrow would not be upon sorrow in the heart of Paul and the other believers! Paul was so thankful to send him back to the Philippians in one piece.*

***Taking it Home:*** Is it your desire to have the "mind" of Christ, to be "one" in him, and to submit your will humbly to His? \_\_\_\_\_ *(Thus enabling yourself to experience true victories through Him)*