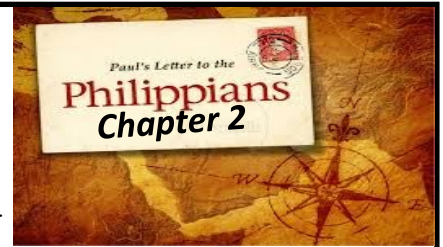


In Philippians 1:27 Paul encourages the believers to have a manner of life that is worthy of the gospel of Christ, *“standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.”* He reminds them that they have been granted not just to believe in Christ, but to suffer for him too. The best way to face this opposition is together - being of one mind and striving together for the gospel. As we move into chapter 2 Paul is continuing this train of thought.



### Philippians ch.2:1-11

<sup>1</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Read 2:1-4. Mark Christ with a  and underline any instructions that Paul gives the believers.**

*v2 what instruction does Paul give and according to v1 on what basis are they able to do this? List each statement in v1 and reflect on how it would help promote unity.*

*v3-4 What are Paul's other commands and how do they relate to v2?*

**Read 2:5-11. Mark Christ (including pronouns) with a  List what you learn about him in these verses.**

*Emptied - 2758 - to make of no reputation, to deprive of force.*

*Reflect on all that Jesus has done, considering who he is. What does Christ's example teach us about our attitude as we live in a manner worthy of the gospel?*

*What will be the ultimate outcome of this?*

**Read 2:12-13. Mark work with a  and make a list.**

*v12 What does it mean to work out our salvation?*

*v12b Amp. "with awe-inspired fear and trembling [using serious caution and critical self-evaluation to avoid anything that might offend God or discredit the name of Christ]."*

*v13 How does God's work relate to our work?*

<sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing,  
<sup>15</sup> that you may be blameless and innocent children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup> holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup> Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup> Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>19</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. <sup>20</sup> For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. <sup>21</sup> For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. <sup>23</sup> I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, <sup>24</sup> and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

<sup>25</sup> I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, <sup>26</sup> for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. <sup>27</sup> Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. <sup>29</sup> So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, <sup>30</sup> for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

**Read 2:14-18. Underline the instruction in v14 and mark "that" and "so that" with an ⇔ Mark "rejoice" with a 😊**

*v14 What is Paul's instruction and how does it follow on from what he has already been writing?*

Grumbling - 1112 - a secret displeasure not openly avowed

Disputing - 1261 - the thinking of a man deliberating within himself.

*v15-16a What will be the outcome of obeying v14?*

*v16b For Paul what would be the ultimate outcome?*

*v17-18 How does Paul view the cost of serving them?*

*What does this tell you about his focus and passion?*

**Read 2:19-24. Mark Timothy (incl. pronouns) with a  - List what you learn about him.**

*In what ways does he reflect what Paul has been teaching?*

**Read 2:25-30. Mark Epaphroditus (incl. pronouns) with a  - List what you learn about him.**

*v25 What different ways is this man described?*

*What does this tell you about the type of man he was and how does he reflect Paul's teaching to this point?*

*From this study, what do you think it will mean for you as an individual, and for the community of Christians you belong to, to live in a manner worthy of the gospel?*

*How will the centrality of Christ in your life impact that?*