Christ’s Mind in Me

Lesson 8: Philippians 2
February 23, 2020
Themes: Joy

- 1:4 always offering prayer with j.
- 1:18 Christ is proclaimed... I r.
- 1:18 Yes and I will r.
- 1:25 for your progress and j.
- 2:2 make my j. complete
- 2:17 poured out...I r.
- 2:17 share my j. with you
- 2:18 r. in the same way
- 2:18 share your j. with me
- 2:28 when you see him...r.
- 2:29 Receive him...with all j.
- 3:1 r. in the Lord
- 4:1 my j. and crown
- 4:4 R. in the Lord always
- 4:4 again I will say, r.!
- 4:10 But I r. in the Lord
Themes: Joy

• Context of joy
  • The person of other believers
  • The maturity of other believers
  • All situations that come our way
  • That Christ is preached
  • In the Lord, always

• Results of joy
  • Prayer
  • Sharing of joy with others
  • Less concern
  • Safeguard
Outline of the Letter

• 1:1-11 Introduction
• 1:12-3:1 Life in Christ
  • 1:12-26 The result of Paul’s suffering for the gospel
    • 1:12-18 The spread of the gospel
    • 1:19-26 Ministry perspective in suffering
  • 1:27-2:11 Conduct worthy of the gospel
    • 1:27-2:4 Characteristics
    • 2:5-11 The example of Christ
• 2:12-30 Working out our salvation
  • 2:12-18 Characteristics
  • 2:19-30 The examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus
• 3:1 Rejoice
Outline of the Letter

• 3:2-4:20  Pressing on in Christ
  • 3:2-14  The foundation of life in Christ
    • 3:2-6  The flesh a false hope of salvation
    • 3:7-11  Righteousness from God true hope of salvation
    • 3:12-14  Paul’s response to salvation
  • 3:15-4:9  The attitude of believers
    • 3:15-4:1  Our response to salvation
    • 4:2-3  Addressing disunity
    • 4:4-9  The Christian mind
  • 4:10-20  Contentment and provision
• 4:21-23  Closing
Lesson Outline

• 1:12-3:1 Life in Christ
  • 1:27-2:11 Conduct worthy of the gospel
    • 1:27-2:4 Characteristics
    • 2:5-11 The example of Christ
  • 2:12-30 Working out our salvation
    • 2:12-18 Characteristics
    • 2:19-30 The examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus
  • 3:1 Rejoice
Conduct worthy of the gospel
Philippians 2:1-4

1Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

• 2:1-2 The essence of unity
• 2:3-4 The expression of unity
• What would make our joy complete?
• Humility helps with unity
Conduct worthy of the gospel
Philippians 2:5-11

5Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

• 2:6-8 Jesus as actor
  • Did not regard equality
  • But emptied
  • But humbled

• 2:9-11 God as initiator
  • Exalted highly
  • Gave Him the name

• Result
  • Worship
  • Confession
Working out our salvation  
Philippians 2:12-16

12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

- Responsibilities
  - Us – work out
  - God – work in

- We work out for God works in
- Our behavior needs to prove we are light in the world
- Paul wanted to be a good steward over the Philippians
Working out our salvation
Philippians 2:17-22

17But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. 18You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

19But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. 20For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. 21For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. 22But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.

• Christian joy is to be shared
• Paul wanted encouragement about how the Philippians were
• Our interests need to be subservient to those of Christ
Working out our salvation
Philippians 2:23-27

23 Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me; 24 and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly. 25 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; 26 because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.

• Visitors to Philippi
  • Epaphroditus – with, or before the letter
  • Timothy – shortly, as soon as Paul see how things go with him
  • Paul – shortly

• Epaphroditus
  • Brother
  • Fellow worker
  • Fellow soldier
  • Messenger
  • Minister
Working out our salvation
Philippians 2:28-30

Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

• Seeing believers again should be a joy
• Epaphroditus risked his life to serve
• Those who work hard for the Lord are to be honored
Summary

• Unity is a joy
• We should regard others as more important than ourselves
• Those who have the mind of Christ are humble
• Those walking humbly with God are obedient to Him
• We are to work out our salvation for God works in us to will and to work for His good pleasure
• We need to be blameless and innocent children of God in the world
• We need to seek after the interests of Christ Jesus