

Philippians 2

V 1-4: be like-minded, united, one accord. Look out for everyone's interest. No pride or conceit, no ambition. Pride and passion are enemies of Christian love. Think of others above yourselves. Jesus is the example. Possible in the Spirit.

V 5-8: we should have the mind of Christ. What was this? Meek and humble of heart Matt 11:29. The 2 Natures – in the form of God- eternal, only begotten; John 1:1, Col 1:15, Heb 1:3, John 10:30. He in ONE with God. He was God, an equal Person of the Godhead. Had appeared in glory in the OT.

He condescends, voluntarily. Becomes a servant, *doulos*. Comes in human form. Left His Glory. Humbled and became obedient even to death. Life of poverty, nowhere to lay His head. Then a cursed death.

V 9-11: so, He is exalted as a result. Greek means exceedingly. BOTH natures are exalted. A Dignity above all beings and powers. Everyone must submit. Everything is in subjection to Him. All authority in Heaven and earth is given to Him. EVERYONE will confess that He is Lord and the Father will be glorified.

V 12-13: the good of your soul is the most important thing. Avoiding sin, repenting. Following. Greek means work thoroughly at it and take great pains. We must persevere to the end. Care and diligence. Fear and trembling. God works within us to help us and save us. Cannot be done without grace. He prepares works for us.

V 14-16: be examples in the world and be witnesses. No complaining or debating with each other also. We are children of God (Romans 8). Gospel here is called the Word of life. It brings salvation and immortality. Paul wants to know that his work was not in vain. He was the one who brought them the Gospel.

V 17-18: Paul is ready for his martyrdom. If it promotes Christ and strengthens the believers in Philippi he is ready. He tells Timothy the same thing in II Timothy 4:6. He was always ready; what about us? The church should rejoice.

V 19-24: Paul wants to send Timothy to them. To find out how they are. He can trust Timothy. No one compared to Timothy, he really cares about the work. He served Paul like a son for the sake of the Gospel. Many others were seeking their own benefit, but not him. Does Paul really mean *all*? Exaggerated? Paul trusts that he can go too after being released from prison.

V 25-30: Paul will also send Epaphroditus. Calls him a brother, a fellow-worker, and a soldier. Has high regard for him. He had been very ill and almost died but God healed him. The Philippians had worried about him. Epaphroditus wanted to go because they worried about his illness. They apparently had a high regard for him also.

Paul says that Epaphroditus came close to death because of his service to Christ. Receive those that have zeal and great faith, rejoice.

Paul was so glad that he didn't have another sorrow had Epaphroditus died. He can supply some need that the Philippians had.