

Sermon Series: "One in mind, love, spirit and purpose"

Sermon Summary and Bible Study 3

Rejoice in Humility

Philippians Chapter 1 verses 27 to Chapter 2 verse 18

Up to this point in the letter, the Apostle Paul has described himself as "in chains for Christ". He was content to rejoice in his hardship (1:12-27) for it had "advanced the gospel" and encouraged believers "to dare to proclaim the gospel" (1:12-14). However, he didn't know whether he would live or die. But for him, trusting in the sovereignty of God, who is good, to live was *for Christ*, fruitful labour and ongoing ministry and to die would be gain, to be with Christ (1:21). He encouraged believers to think likewise in their hardship for Christ. We pick up from where we left last week with our Bible teaching beginning at verse 27 and 28. "Whatever happens", Paul says, referring to whatever his outcome would be, he wanted to know that the Philippian church would "conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel" (1:27) i.e. worthy of what the gospel message deserves from us – one in mind, love, Spirit and purpose. This was important to the Apostle for he wrote, this would "make his joy complete" (2:2) and that then he would be able to boast on the day of Christ that he "did not labour in vain" (2:16). We get the impression that Paul needed encouragement just as much as the church in Philippi did in their hardship. We all need encouragement as Christians from each other. For the reality is, as it was for Paul, so it will be for us. For it has been granted to us on behalf of Christ to not only believe in him, but also to suffer for him (1:29,30). The suffering that comes from those who do not understand the gospel message and it's hope or oppose it. But also the suffering that comes from living a life God's way in the world and our struggle with our sinful nature. Encouragement from our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ brings us not only the incentive to persevere in Christ but the joy of sharing in our hardships together knowing that what we share in is not in vain. Whether the church provided that encouragement or not, Paul was willing to set an example for them and us to follow (2:17) as he followed the example of Christ (2:3-11). The example of encouragement we are to follow is one of **humility** - "not looking to our own interests, needs, but each of us looking to the interests, needs of the other (2:1-3,14). In our relationships with one another having we are to have the same mindset as that of Christ Jesus. For such is the out working (i.e the unfolding, revealing, proof) of our salvation. For humility towards one another, conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel, is the work of God in us to will and act in order to fulfil his good purpose (2:12,13; 1:28). Such is reason to be glad and rejoice (2:18).

A Bible Study

Pray to begin with - *Almighty God and loving heavenly Father, guide me and teach me of yourself from your Word. Help me to see the wisdom and value to my life of living it according to what I read and learn in it. Amen.*

Read Philippians Chapter 1 verse 27 to Chapter 2 verse 18

Read Sermon Summary – (See over)

Questions:

1. What do you understand "humility" to be, to look like? How would you define it? What "good" do you foresee would come from you being humble amongst your brothers and sister in Christ within your church?
2. How did the Apostle Paul define 'humility'? **Who** did he give as an example for us to follow (See 2:3-5)?
3. What is it about Christ's mindset and example that demonstrated his humility (See 2:6-8)? What would that mean for you to do having the same mind set as Christ? What reason did Paul give (See 1:29,30)? What incentive does he give for us to obey (See 2:9-13)?
4. In verse 27 he said, "Whatever happens", referring to his outcome and theirs in regards to hardship, what did he encouraged Christians to do, what will that look like and why? (See 1:27-30. See also 2:2 and 16b).
5. The word "Therefore" at 2:1 means that what has gone before gives reason for what follows. What practical examples of "conducting yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel", "having the same mindset as Christ" and of "humility" does Paul give in verses 1 to 5 and 14-16a?
6. What example of "humility" did Paul give of himself in 2:17-18. To understand what Paul means by "poured out like a drink offering" look up <https://youtu.be/FwrmostatBg>
7. Go back to question 1.

A Prayer to end - *Thank you God for guiding and teaching me of yourself from your Word. There is wisdom and value for my life in living it according to what I have read and learnt. Amen.*

Read ahead for next week's Bible Teaching: Philippians Chapter 2:19-30.