

Bible Study Notes
Week of November 16, 2008
Philippians 1:27-2:18

Philippians 2:1-18

PHP 2:1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

PHP 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

PHP 2:6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

PHP 2:7 but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

PHP 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death--
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

PHP 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

PHP 2:14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶ as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

- I. Advice to study leaders:
 - a. Use OIA questions
 - O = Observation questions
 - I = Interpretation questions
 - A = Application questions
 - b. Also use process questions: what else? what more?
 - c. Pace the study—move on—conclude strong
 - d. Reword—put questions in wording that works for you.

Opening question (possible): When was the last time you saw someone respond to another person with genuine selflessness? Or – Is there a person in your life that you think of when you hear the word ‘humility’?

- Pray for the Holy Spirit’s leading (if you haven’t already prayed)
- Read text (I often let people read it over silently and then have it read aloud).

Overview observation question: What are the key ‘movements’ or ‘sections’ of this passage? What title would you give to each section?

first section—verses 1-4:

O Which of the benefits listed in verse 1 do you most appreciate from being connected with Christ?

I Can there be such a thing as ‘self-indulgent’ spirituality? What makes this statement seem like such a paradox?

O What is the tone of the writer’s challenge to the believers in Philippi? What arguments does he use to try to persuade them towards an ‘others’ mentality?

A What hinders us (you!) from looking out for other’s interests and keeping focused on our own interest?

second section—verses 5-11:

I What makes the example of Jesus such a compelling one for the readers? For you?

O Is there a pivotal phrase in this section that acts as a hinge to the ‘poem’? What is it?

A What are the implications for us as a group that encourages each other to be like Christ?

third section—verses 12-18

I With this passage as the context, what do you think it means when Paul says “Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.”? Whose work is it?

A Where in your life do you see complaining and arguing? How would an ‘others’ mentality change that?

A What are the outcomes of living a life that is modeled after Christ’s example? What in our culture makes it difficult for us to believe that this is really the case?

Are there specific areas in your life that you need prayer in as you seek to live out this teaching? Pray for one another.