

Philippians 2 - Christ our Mind

2:1-4 APPEAL FOR UNITY

Paul now emphasises 4 qualities of the Truth they were in danger of losing if they didn't preserve unity. **v1 Consolation in Christ:** Gk. *call to one's side to console*, cp. **2 Cor 1:3-6; 2 Thess 2:16.** **Comfort of love:** Gk. *to speak kindly or soothingly*. **Fellowship of Spirit:** They shared one spirit: **1:27**, love for God and each other.

Bowels: Metaphorical, speaking of the innermost feelings. This is an ecclesia of much love. Warning to not let this be destroyed by disunity. **v2 Fulfil ye my joy:** Later he calls them his "joy and crown" **4:1**. **Likeminded:** As Timothy was: **2:19-24**. Appears he has in mind the conflict of **4:2**. **One accord, mind:** As the one body of Christ: **Eph 5:30; 1 Cor 12:27**. In harmony: **1 Cor 12:12-23**. Growing together in our care for others: **1 Cor 12:24-26; Eph 4:15-16; Col 2:19**. **v3 Strife:** Factions, as in **Jas 3:16**. See also **Rom 16:17; 1 Cor 11:18**.

Vainglory: Self-promotion has no place in the ecclesia: **Rom 12:3; Gal 6:3**. God hates pride: **Psa 10:3; 12:2-4**. Pride is the cause of boasting: **Prov 8:13; 15:25; 16:5,19; 21:4; Jer 9:23-24**. Humility is essential for ecclesial unity and our eternal salvation: **1 Pet 5:3-6**. **Lowliness of mind:** Paul led by example: **Acts 20:19; Eph 4:1-3**. **Esteem other better than themselves:** Consider Jonathan: **1 Sam 23:17**; also John the Baptist: **Jn 3:30**.

v4 Look not on his own things: The first characteristics Paul warned Timothy against in **2 Tim 3:2** was *men being lovers of their own selves*. Consider also **Mk 10:43-35; Rom 15:2-3**.

2:5-11 JESUS CHRIST'S ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY These verses are the heart of this Epistle. Christ is the supreme example of humility. **v5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus:** He was the greatest of all men yet washed his disciple's feet: **Jn 13:1-17**. Be clothed with humility as Christ was: **Mt 11:29; 1 Pet 5:5-11**. See also **Isa 57:15; 66:2; Mt 5:3-5; Mk 10:15; Col 3:12; 1 Pet 3:4**.

v6 In the form of God: Does not mean the same person. Similar concept used in **2 Tim 3:5** "form of godliness"; **Gal 4:19** "Christ be formed in you". The verb is used in **Rom 12:2** "transformed" and **2 Cor 3:18** "changed". **Not robbery:** Means the opposite to what is translated in the KJV. Gk. *"did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself."* (Revised Version) He chose a path of lowly suffering rather than snatching immediate riches and glory. **v7 Made himself of no reputation:** Gk. *"he emptied himself"* (RV, RSV). Jesus taught "blessed are the poor in spirit": **Mt 5:3**, cited from **Psa 34:18; 51:17; Isa 57:15; 66:1-2**. **Form of a servant:** He binds those who are broken. Clear allusion in this section to **Isaiah's servant prophecies** telling of the son's submission to his Father's will: **Isa 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:5-6; 52:12-13**. Yet this was displayed by him under the most extreme pressure and trial.

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,
2 Fulfil ye my joy that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.
4 Look not every man on his

Compare these references to Isaiah's servant prophecies: **Isaiah 45:21-25 (Phil 2:9-11); 50:5 (2:8); 52:13 (2:9); 53:10; 60:21; 61:3 (2:11); 42:6, 49:6 (2:15); 49:4 (2:16)**. Paul invites us to go back to Isaiah to consider and meditate on the suffering servant.

v8 Fashion as a man: Gk. *"in condition as a man"* (Diaglot). **Humbled himself:** Amazing example for us!! Consider these important Scriptures: **Mt 18:4; 23:12; Lk 3:5; 14:11; 18:14; Jas 4:10; 1 Pet 5:6**.

Obedient unto death: Jesus bore the trial patiently and without resisting, even seeking forgiveness for his persecutors: **Lk 23:34**. He is our example in enduring trial: **Heb 12:3-4; Mk 8:34-35**. He willingly submitted to God's will rather than his own, right to the point of death: **Mt 26:39**. He learnt obedience by the things he suffered **Heb 5:7-9**. Through his suffering, he developed a personal relationship with his brothers and sisters. He was not detached from those he came to save. **Even death of the cross:** The last act of obedience in a whole life of perfection: **Rom 5:19; Phil 2:8**. He has a fellow feeling for those he came to save, including those persecuted and killed for their faith. No-one can say he doesn't understand: **Heb 2:14-15**. An appreciation of his life should have an emotional and motivational effect on us: **Gal 2:20**.

v9 Wherefore: Important connection! Obedience warranted his exaltation. The grave could not hold him: **Acts 2:24**. **Highly exalted him:** Cited from **Isa 52:13**. **Name:** Gk. *"the name"* Roth. *"favoured him with the name"*

v10 Name of Jesus: Cited from **Isa 45:23-24**. In Isaiah the Name to whom every knee bows is Yahweh, cp **Jn 14:9; Heb 1:1**. In **Isa 45:21** Yahweh as our Saviour. He saves us through Jesus Christ: **2 Pet 1:1, 11**. **Every knee should bow:** Christ will have dominion over all things: **Psa 8:6; 1 Cor 15:27-28; Heb 2:6-10**. **v11 Jesus Christ is Lord:** He is Christ, the anointed one: **Heb 1:9**. He is Lord over all: **Rom 14:9**.

2:12-18 GOD WORKING IN US FOR HIS GOOD PLEASURE

v12 Work out your salvation: How? Through fear and trembling. The next verse also explains how. It is by God working in us: **Mt 16:27; 2 Cor 5:10; Jas 2:17-24**. **Fear and trembling:** A serious desire to what is right before God: **1 Cor 2:2-3; 2 Cor 7:15; Eph 6:5**.

own things, but ^aevery man also ^aon the things of others.

5 ^aLet this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, ^dbeing in the ^eform of God, thought it not robbery to be ^eequal with God:

7 But ^bmade himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of ^aa servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in ^ffashion as a man, he humbled himself, and ^mbecame obedient unto death, even ⁿthe death of the cross.

9 ^pWherefore ^qGod also hath ^rhighly exalted him, and given him ^aa name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus ^tevery knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And ^sthat every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is ^vLord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Wherefore, my beloved, ^aas ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, ^bwork out your own salvation with ^cfear and trembling.

13 For ^dit is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his ^egood pleasure.

14 Do all things without murmurings and ^fdisputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and ^gharmless, ^hthe sons of God, without rebuke, ⁱin the midst of a ^jcrooked and perverse nation, among whom ^kye shine ^las lights in the world;

16 Holding forth ^mthe word of life; that ⁿI may rejoice in the day of Christ, that ^pI have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

17 Yea, and if I be ^qoffered upon the sacrifice and ^rservice

of your faith, ^tI joy, and rejoice with you all.

18 For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send ^uTimotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

20 For I have no man ^vlike-minded, who will naturally care for your state.

21 For ^wall ^xseek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

22 But ye know the proof of him, that, ^yas a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

23 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

24 But ^z"I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and ^ahe that ministered to my wants.

26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and ^bhold such in reputation:

30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, ^cto supply your lack of service toward me.

GOD WORKING IN US: We become new creatures by God's Word growing within us: **Jn 1:4,12-13; 3:13-17; 6:63; Rom 1:16; Jas 1:18-21**. God's Word is not only the means of **begetting** and **birth**, but **also growth**: **1 Pet 2:1-2**. This results in repentance, conversion and baptism. Our response to the Word is like seed been sown and growing in good soil: **Lk 8:4-21**. God's providence and presence in trials and experiences of life assists in spiritual-mindedness, and ultimately, character: **Rom 8:14-21; Jn 3:1-10**.

Colour code: Blue (God and Jesus Christ); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words and phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for 2017 Perth Youth Conference. These notes are based on the 1983 Adelaide Youth Conference notes. For a pdf file email acdangfield@webshield.net.au.



v13 Worketh in you: See notes at the bottom of page.

v14 Without murmurings: Israel in the wilderness: **Ex 15:24; Num 17:10; Psa 106:25**.

v15 Sons of God: **Jn 1:14; 1 Jn 3:1-2**. **Shine as lights:** From **Isa 49:6**. Christ's teaching: **Mt 5:14-16**. Light guides our walk and produces right conduct: **Psa 119:104-105; Prov 4:18; Mt 25:6-7; Mk 4:21-22; 2 Cor 4:6; 1 Thess 5:5; 1 Pet 2:9; 1 Tim 6:16; 1 Jn 1:5**. **v16 Day of Christ:** Also **1:6,10**. Day of the Lord: **1 Cor 5:5; 2 Cor 1:14; 1 Thess 5:2; 2 Thess 2:2**. **Laboured in vain:** Cited from **Isa 49:4**, Christ's despair in Gethsemane, yet the angel encourages him: **Isa 49:5-10**. cp. **Isa 65:23; 1 Cor 15:58**.

v17 Sacrifice: Burnt offering, in total dedication: **Mk 12:33**.

2:19-30 TWO EXAMPLES OF CHRIST-MINDEDNESS

v19-24 Timothy: A replica of Paul, one who cared for the ecclesia! **As a son:** **1 Cor 4:17; 1 Tim 1:2; 2 Tim 1:2**.

v25-30 Epaphroditus: A real life example of **2:3-5; Lk 9:24**.