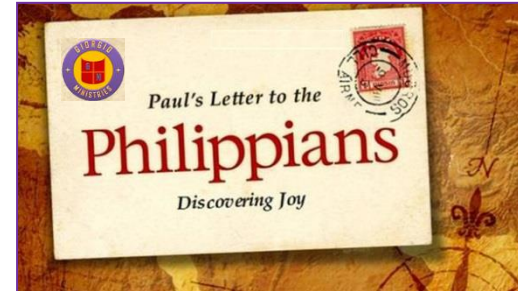




# Philippians

Joy In Christ

*Lesson 05*



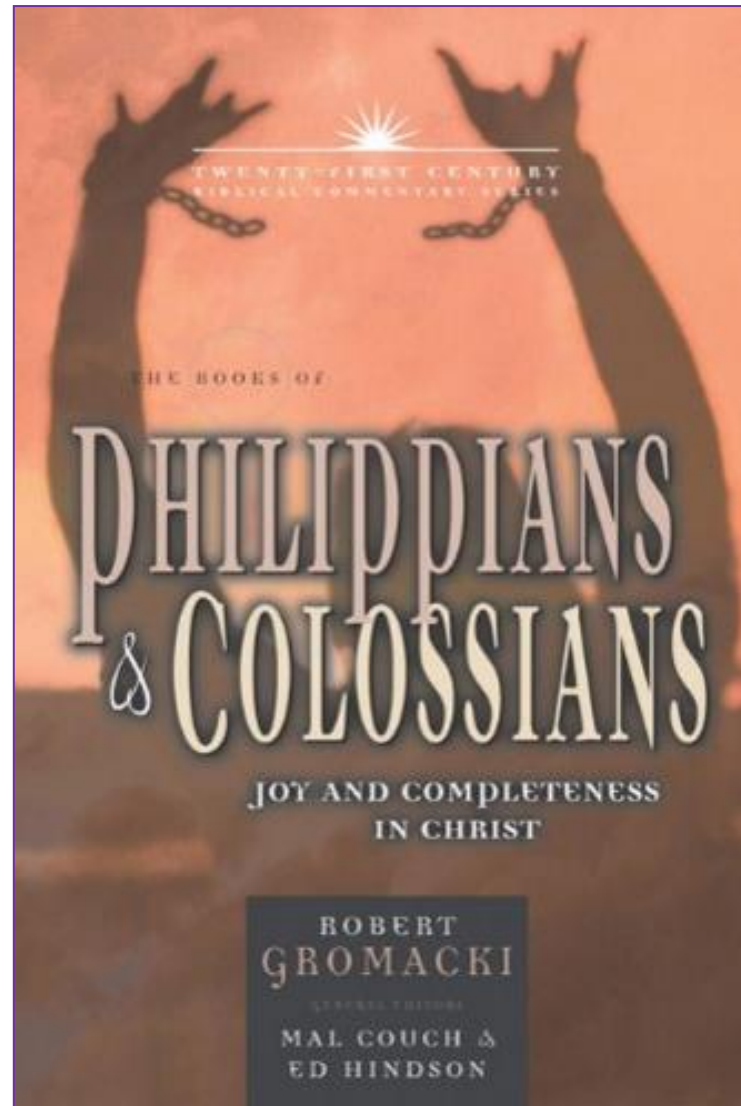
## Challenge to the Church

**Philippians 1:27-2:4**

Philip Giorgio

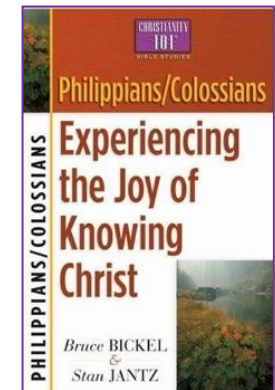
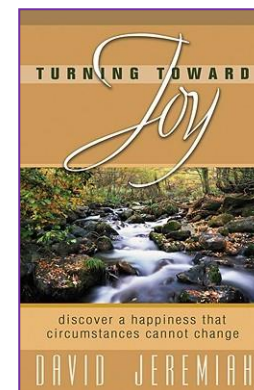
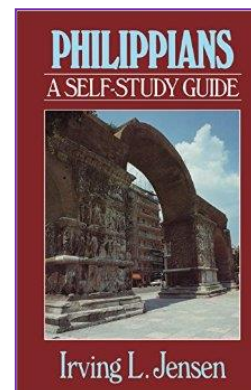
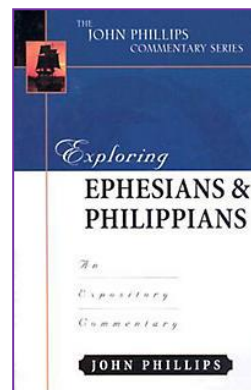
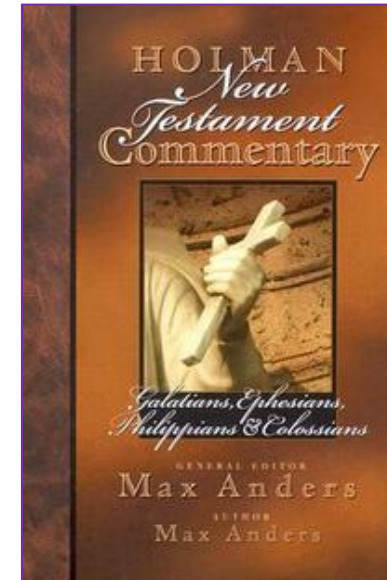
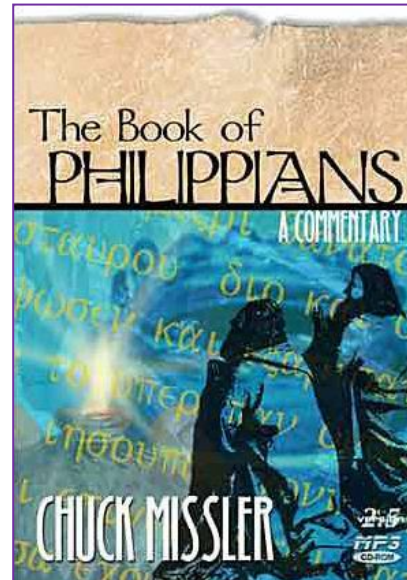


## Textbook



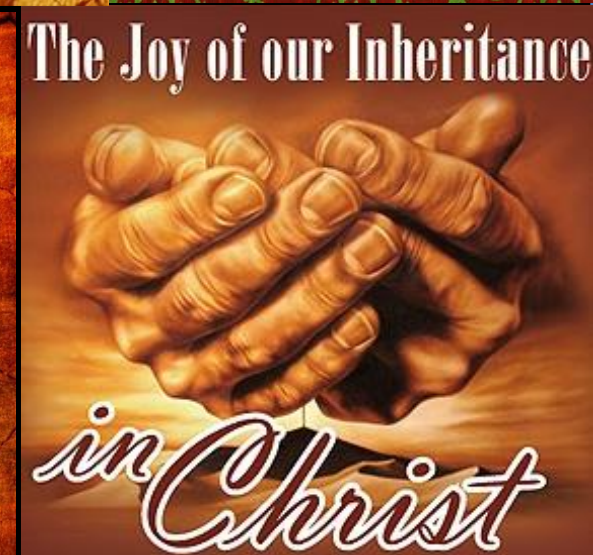
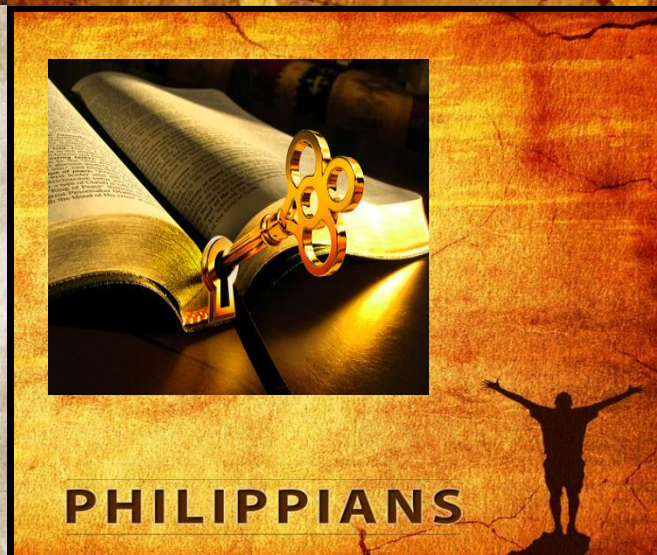
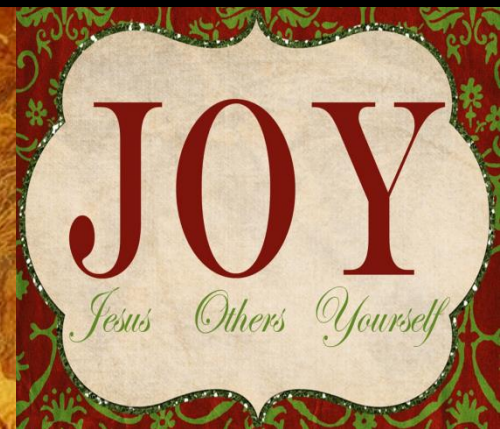
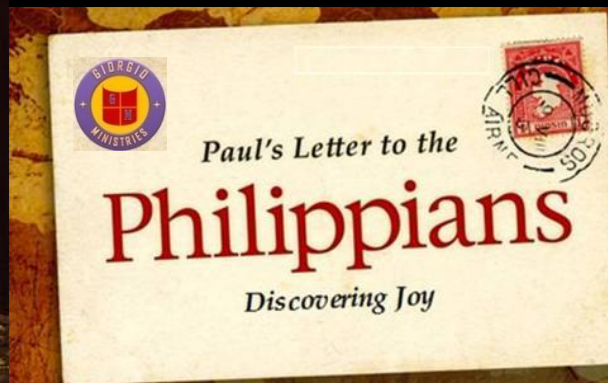
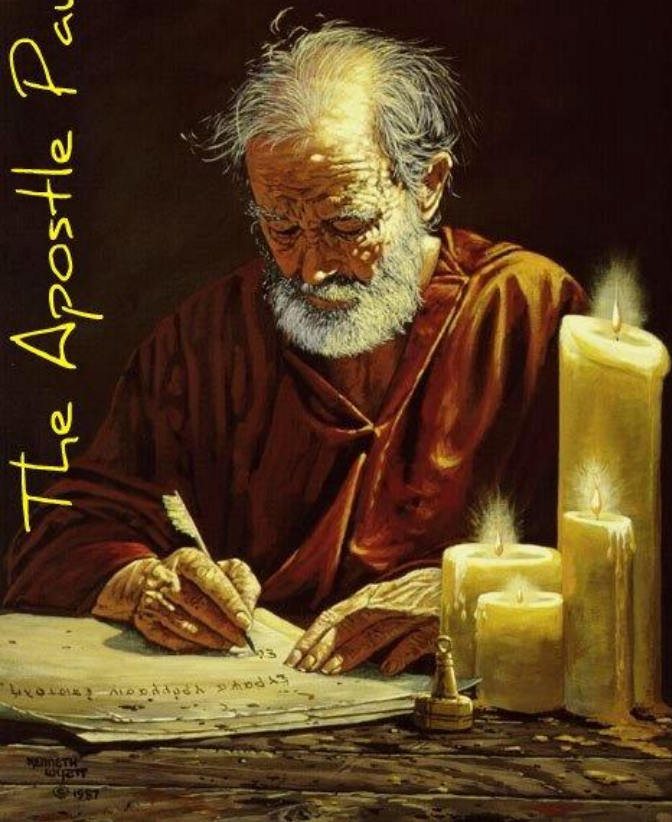


## References





The Apostle Paul





# Course Outline



# Course Outline - Lessons

## ■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

- Lesson 01: Introduction ..... [PHILIPPIANS]
- Lesson 02: The Prayer..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11]
- Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles ..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:12-19]
- Lesson 04: Blessings of Life and Death ..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:20-26]
- Lesson 05: Challenge to the Church ..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:4]
- Lesson 06: Humiliation and Exaltation ..... [PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11]
- Lesson 07: Marks of Humble Service ..... [PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16]
- Lesson 08: Three Examples of Humility ..... [PHILIPPIANS 2:17-30]
- Lesson 09: Danger of Legalism ..... [PHILIPPIANS 3:1-6]
- Lesson 10: The Joy of Salvation ..... [PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14]
- Lesson 11: The Joy of Maturity ..... [PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21]
- Lesson 12: The Joy of Peace ..... [PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9]
- Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment ..... [PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23]

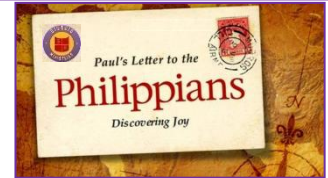


# Lesson Outline

# Lesson 05 - Outline

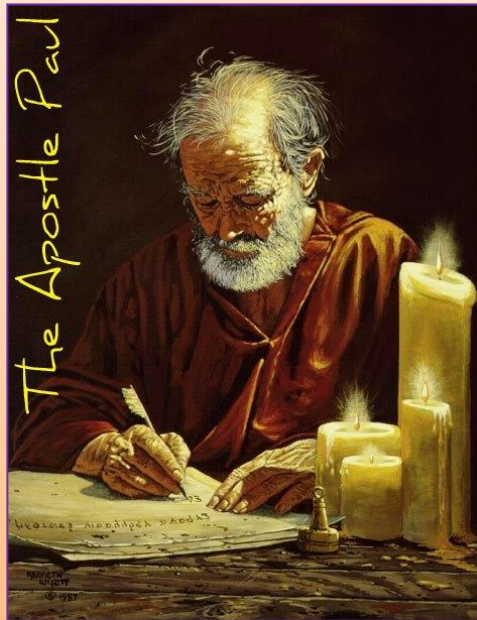
## ■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

### • Lesson 05: Challenge to the Church



### • STRUCTURE

- ➔ » Lesson Preview ..... Introduction
- » Conduct Worthy ..... Philippians 1:27-30
- » Unity Through Humility ..... Philippians 2:1-4

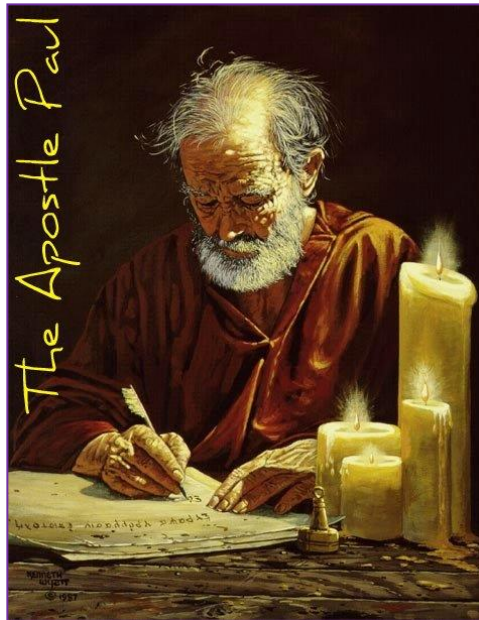




# Lesson Preview - INTRODUCTION

- Preview ... CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

Paul urges the Philippians to remain firm in one spirit and to strive for the faith of the gospel. He reminds them that they were called to believe and suffer for Christ and to experience the conflict that comes in regard to the truth. He calls on the Philippians to remain united, avoid selfishness and empty conceit, and maintain humility of mind.



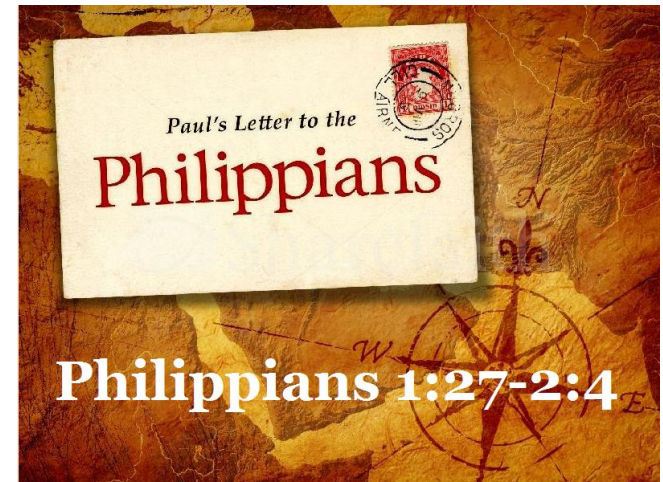
# Lesson Preview - INTRODUCTION

- INTRODUCTION

In the opening section of the epistle, Paul dealt mainly with events that affected his own behavior. He now turns his attention to the spiritual condition of the church.

From Epaphroditus, and subsequent church messengers, the apostle realized that the church needed encouragement and exhortation. In this passage, he develops his instruction around two basic appeals (1:27; 2:2).

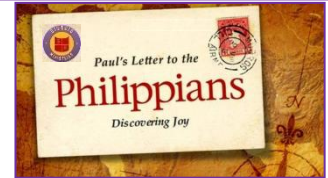
*make my joy  
complete  
having the same love,  
by being like-minded,  
being one in spirit  
and of one mind*  
*Philippians 2:2*



# Lesson 05 - Outline

## ■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

### • Lesson 05: Challenge to the Church

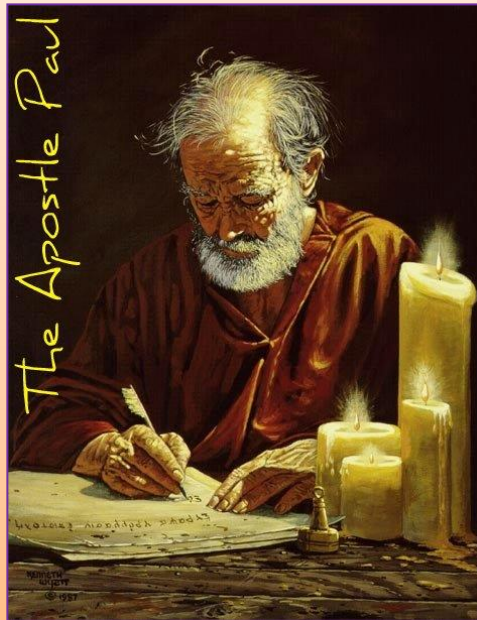


#### • STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview ..... *Introduction*

➔ » Conduct Worthy ..... *Philippians 1:27-30*

» Unity Through Humility ..... *Philippians 2:1-4*





## Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:27a - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

- Philippians 1:27-28 ... NKJV

### • Definition of Citizenship

#### 1. THE BELIEVER IS A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN

The exhortation “LET YOUR CONDUCT” is better translated: “BEHAVE CONSTANTLY AS CITIZENS.”

The Greek verb *politeuomai* derives from the word for city (*polis*) found within the names of several American cities and also transliterated into the English word “*politics*.”

The Philippians understood this term well because they were free Roman citizens possessing all the rights and privileges of being a Roman (Acts 22:28).

In his defense before the Jerusalem council, Paul used this term of himself (Acts 23:1).

All believers have heavenly citizenship (3:20).

The Philippian believers never became citizens of the covenant nation Israel when they became saved (Ephesians 2:12); however, they did become fellow citizens of heaven with all other believers in this age (Ephesians 2:19).

# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:27a - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

- Philippians 1:27-28 ... NKJV

## • Definition of Citizenship

### 2. THE BELIEVER MUST BE A WORTHY CITIZEN

Paul elsewhere encouraged believers to ...

- Walk worthy of the divine calling (Ephesians 4:1),
- Worthy of their God (1 Thessalonians 2:12),
- To please God in all respects (Colossians 1:10).

A worthy walk recognizes the double citizenship of every believer.

Paul admitted his Roman citizenship and used those rights at times (Acts 22:28; 25:10); but such citizenship is temporary, limited to this life.

He also knew that he was primarily a citizen of heaven, a position that would never end.

Worthy citizenship therefore obligates all believers to both governments and God (Matthew 22:21).

# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:27a - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>27</sup> Only **let your conduct** be **worthy** of the **gospel** of **Christ**, so that whether **I come** and **see you** or am **absent**, **I** may **hear** of **your affairs**, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

- Philippians 1:27-28 ... NKJV

## • Definition of Citizenship

### 3. THE BELIEVER MUST REPRESENT THE GOSPEL

The behavior of a heavenly citizen must be worthy of "THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST."

All Christians are Christ's ambassadors to bring the good news of divine reconciliation to a lost and hostile world (2 Corinthians 5:20).

They therefore should do nothing to antagonize the very people God is trying to save.

They must not give offense (1 Corinthians 10:31-33).

<sup>31</sup> Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, <sup>33</sup> just as I also please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

--- 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 ... NKJV



# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:27a - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

- Philippians 1:27-28 ... NKJV

## • Definition of Citizenship

### 4. THE BELIEVER MUST BE A DEVOTED CITIZEN

A good citizen will behave properly with or without supervision.

Therefore, Paul's presence ("WHETHER I COME AND SEE YOU") or absence ("OR AM ABSENT") should have nothing to do with the way the Philippians live.

After all, they were ultimately responsible to God, who was always watching them (Colossians 3:22-25).

<sup>22</sup> Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. <sup>23</sup> And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. <sup>25</sup> But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

--- Colossians 3:22-25 ... NKJV

# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:27b - OBSERVATIONS

**27** Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that **you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,** **28** and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

- Philippians 1:27-28 ... NKJV

## • Goals of Citizenship

The aim of heavenly citizenship is steadfast living on earth.

The verb “STAND FAST” indicates that the Philippians were the true church (1 Corinthians 12:12-14) and were to maintain their stand throughout their earthly residency.

**12** For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. **13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. **14** For in fact the body is not one member but many.

--- 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Some believers, unfortunately, stand but do not work, whereas others work but do not stand.

Paul provides five (5) characteristics of the God-pleasing stand.

# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:27b - OBSERVATIONS

**27** Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that **you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,** **28** and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

- Philippians 1:27-28 ... NKJV

## • Goals of Citizenship

### 1. STAND IN UNITY

The Philippians were to stand "IN ONE SPIRIT".

The "SPIRIT" refers to the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

There can be no unity within the brethren apart from the sovereign control of the **SPIRIT**.

All believers have been baptized in that one **SPIRIT** into the body of Christ, the true church, and they have drunk by faith of the **SPIRIT** (1 Corinthians 12:12-14).

They are indwelt by the **HOLY SPIRIT** (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), and they have access by Him unto the Father (Ephesians 2:18).

They must endeavor "to preserve the unity of the **SPIRIT** in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

That unity is marked by one body, one **SPIRIT**, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all (Ephesians 4:3-6).



# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:27b - OBSERVATIONS

**27** Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that **you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,** **28** and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

- Philippians 1:27-28 ... NKJV

## • Goals of Citizenship

### 2. STAND IN SINGLE PURPOSE

Paul gives three (3) marks of this stance.

**FIRST**, they needed to be of “ONE MIND.” The Greek literally reads “ONE SOUL” (*mia psychē*). Their souls were to be joined together even as those of David and Jonathan who loved each other (1 Samuel 18:1).

**SECOND**, they needed to “STRIVE TOGETHER”, to cooperate as teammates. The Word “ATHLETE” comes from the Greek verb translated “STRIVING TOGETHER” (*synathleō*: sūn-ä-thle'-ō). Each believer must execute his or her own assignment at the right time and in the right way (2 Timothy 2:5).

**5** And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

--- 2 Timothy 2:5 ... NKJV

# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:27b - OBSERVATIONS

**27** Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that **you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,** <sup>28</sup> and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

- Philippians 1:27-28 ... NKJV

## • Goals of Citizenship

### 2. STAND IN SINGLE PURPOSE

Paul gives three (3) marks of this stance.

**THIRD**, their goal was “FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL.” Continuing with sport metaphors, like a good defensive unit in football, the believers must not let Satan and false teachers penetrate their assembly. Like a good offensive unit, they must drive forward to victory. They must defend the truth and win converts at the same time.

The phrase “THE FAITH” points to the specific body of spiritual truth the local church must preserve and propagate (1 Timothy 3:15). Paul predicted that some would depart from the faith (1 Timothy 4:1), and Jude encourages believers to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3).

The entire phrase “THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL” points to all the truth necessary to be understood and believed for salvation. It includes a clear biblical exposition of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:28 - OBSERVATIONS

**27** Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, **28** and **not** in any way **terrified** by **your adversaries**, which is to **them** a **proof** of **perdition**, but to **you** of **salvation**, and that **from God**.

- Philippians 1:27-28 ... NKJV

## • Goals of Citizenship

### 3. STAND WITHOUT FEAR

The manner of the Philippians' stand was to be without fear ("IN ANY WAY TERRIFIED BY YOUR ADVERSARIES"). The verb "terrified" (Greek, *ptyrō*: ptü'-rō) is used of horses spooked into an uncontrollable stampede. Inner fear is usually caused by an outside stimulus.

Double citizenship has advantages, but it also brings misunderstanding and conflict. A believer is in the kingdom of God but also lives among the kingdoms of the world that are ruled by Satan (Luke 4:5-6).

The "ADVERSARIES" included the Judaizers, the self-righteous legalist who had invaded the church (3:2). Other adversaries were pagan idolaters, the evil world system, Satan, and demonic spirits. The Roman government and citizenry also attacked believers. But Jesus Christ cautioned believers not to fear men (Luke 12:4). He predicted that believers would have tribulation within the church age, but He also assured them that He had overcome the world (John 16:33).



# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:28 - OBSERVATIONS

**27** Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, **28** and **not** in any way **terrified** by **your adversaries**, which is to **them** a **proof** of **perdition**, but to **you** of **salvation**, and that **from God**.

- Philippians 1:27-28 ... NKJV

## • Goals of Citizenship

### 3. STAND WITHOUT FEAR

Such opposition must be seen for what it really is.

It has two (2) sides:

**FIRST** it is to the unsaved “A PROOF OF PERDITION.” The word “PROOF” (Greek *endeixis*: e'n-dā-ksēs) is an ancient legal term for a demonstrable proof.

The hostility of the opponents revealed that they were unregenerate and would receive the judgment of God because of their unbelief and their unrighteous persecution of believers. Their sinful practice manifested their sinful position before God.

The concept behind “DESTRUCTION” (Greek *apōleia*: ä-pō'-lā-ä) is that of lostness, the very antithesis of salvation.

# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:28 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and **not** in any way **terrified** by **your adversaries**, which is to **them** a **proof** of **perdition**, but to **you** of **salvation**, and that **from God**.

- Philippians 1:27-28 ... NKJV

## • Goals of Citizenship

### 3. STAND WITHOUT FEAR

**SECOND**, deliberate adversity from the unsaved is to believers a **PROOF OF SALVATION**.

The world loves its own, but it hates and persecutes those who have turned to Christ (John 15:18-19).

<sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you.<sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. --- John 15:18-19 ... NKJV

In one sense, Christians should rejoice when opposition comes, because they can conclude that the world sees Christ in them, thus assuring that they are genuinely saved.

The qualifying phrase "AND THAT FROM GOD" shows that God is the source of salvation and that He has permitted the persecution to occur within limits prescribed by Him.

# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:29 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>29</sup> For to **you** it has been **granted** on **behalf** of **Christ**, not only to **believe** in **Him**, but also to **suffer** for **His sake**,  
<sup>30</sup> having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

- Philippians 1:29-30 ... NKJV

## • Goals of Citizenship

### 4. STAND IN SUFFERING

Persecution by the world affords believers the blessings of being able to suffer for the sake of Christ and for divine righteousness (Matthew 5:10-12).

<sup>10</sup> Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

--- Matthew 5:10-12 ... NKJV

Such opposition should not be viewed as a punishment but as a gift ("FOR TO YOU IT HAS BEEN GRANTED FOR CHRIST'S SAKE").

The verb "GRANTED" (Greek *charizomai*: khä-rē'-zo-mī) is based on the word for "grace" (Greek *charis*: khä'-rēs).

Since grace is unmerited divine favor, people do not deserve to suffer for Christ any more than they deserve to be saved through Him.



# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:29 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>29</sup> For to **you** it has been **granted** on **behalf** of **Christ**, not only to **believe** in **Him**, but also to **suffer** for **His sake**,  
<sup>30</sup> having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

- Philippians 1:29-30 ... NKJV

## • Goals of Citizenship

### 4. STAND IN SUFFERING

The two (2) divine gifts imparted to all believers are listed in chronological order.

**FIRST**, it was given to them "TO BELIEVE IN HIM."

Salvation is of the Lord from the beginning to the end (Jonah 2:9). As objects of divine choice, believers know they will be in the eternal presence of God because of what Christ has done for them, not because of what they have done for Christ. All are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-10). The entire program of salvation is a gift from our loving God.

SAVED FROM SIN!

SAVED FOR GOOD WORKS!

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

--- Ephesians 2:8-10 ... NKJV



# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:29 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>29</sup> For to **you** it has been **granted** on **behalf** of **Christ**, not only to **believe** in **Him**, but also to **suffer** for **His sake**,  
<sup>30</sup> having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

- Philippians 1:29-30 ... NKJV

<sup>19</sup> For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. <sup>20</sup> For what credit *is* *it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God.

--- 1 Peter 2:19-20 ... NKJV

## • Goals of Citizenship

### 4. STAND IN SUFFERING

The two (2) divine gifts imparted to all believers are listed in chronological order.

**SECOND**, it was given to them “**ALSO TO SUFFER FOR HIS SAKE.**”

Most believers want glory apart from suffering, faith without conflict. However, suffering for Christ produces assurance (1 Peter 4:14), rewards (1 Peter 4:13), evangelistic fruit (1:12-14), and glory to God (Acts 9:16).

A distinction must be made between suffering per se and Christian suffering. A believer must suffer “**FOR HIS SAKE**”.

The text literally read “**IN BEHALF OF HIM**”. Just as Christ once suffered for believers on the cross, so should children of God suffer for Him. Believers must follow the example of Christ (1 Peter 2:21).

Suffering for wrongdoing and stupid mistakes is deserved and will bring no reward (1 Peter 2:19-20).

# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:30 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, <sup>30</sup> having the **same conflict** which **you saw** in **me** and now **hear is** in **me**.

- Philippians 1:29-30 ... NKJV

## • Goals of Citizenship

### 5. STAND WITH PAUL

The church was experiencing “THE SAME CONFLICT” they saw in Paul.

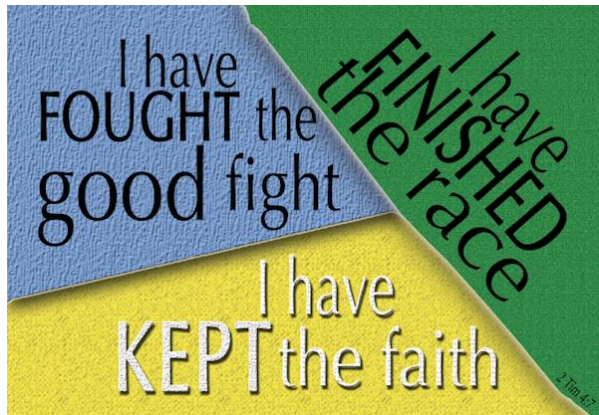
The term “CONFLICT” (Greek *agōn*: ä-gō'n) transliterates as “AGONY”. It was used of the strenuous struggles of athletes and gladiators.

Paul challenged Timothy to fight the good “FIGHT” of faith (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Paul's Valedictory

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. --- 2 Timothy 4:6-8 ... NKJV

All believers are engaged in spiritual conflict with the demonic forces of Satan (Ephesians 6:11-12). To stand, they must put on the defensive armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18).



# Conduct Worthy - Philippians 1:30 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,  
<sup>30</sup> having the **same conflict** which **you saw** in **me** and now **hear is in me**.

- Philippians 1:29-30 ... NKJV

## The Sufferings of Paul

### • Goals of Citizenship

#### 5. STAND WITH PAUL

This conflict resembles that of Paul in two (2) ways.

**FIRST**, it was like that which Paul endured at Philippi during his initial ministry (“**WHICH YOU SAW IN ME**”, Acts 16:19-40).

They saw what happened to him, namely, his beatings and imprisonment. They also observed his spiritual response to the shameful abuse (1 Thessalonians 2:2).

<sup>2</sup> But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

--- 1 Thessalonians 2:2 ... NKJV

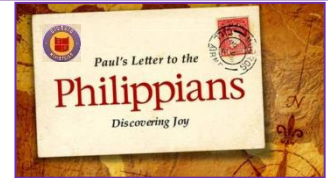
**SECOND**, it was like that which Paul was presently experiencing in Rome (“**AND NOW HEAR IS IN ME**”).

The church has only secondhand reports of the apostle’s predicament. They therefore dispatched Epaphroditus to gain firsthand information.

# Lesson 05 - Outline

## ■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

### • Lesson 05: Challenge to the Church

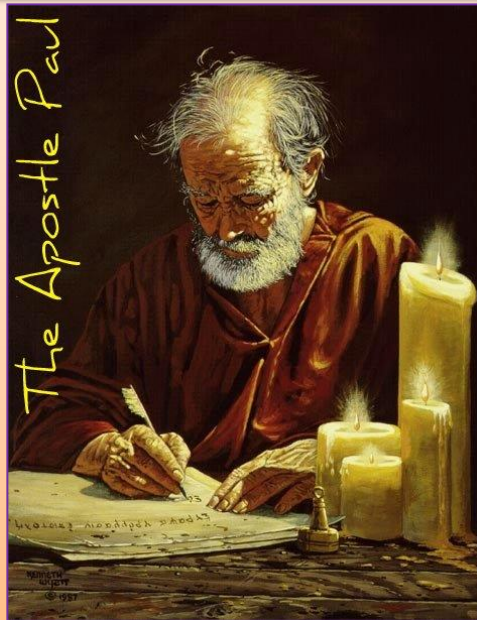


#### • STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview ..... *Introduction*

» Conduct Worthy ..... *Philippians 1:27-30*

➔ » Unity Through Humility ..... *Philippians 2:1-4*





# Unity Through Humility - Philippians 2:1 - OBSERVATIONS

**2** Therefore if *there* is any **consolation** in **Christ**, if any **comfort** of **love**, if any **fellowship** of the **Spirit**, if any **affection** and **mercy**,  
<sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

--- Philippians 2:1-2 ... NKJV

**21** that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

--- John 17:21 ... NKJV

## • Conditions for Joy

Joy is based on attitudes and relationships.

Paul could not have joy if the Philippians' attitude was right toward him but wrong toward others.

He set forth four (4) ground rules for joy.

### 1. ENCOURAGEMENT IN CHRIST

The word "CONSOLATION" (Greek *paraklēsis*: pä-rä'-klā-sēs) can refer either to an **exhortation** or to the **comfort** produced by that appeal.

**Comfort:** it is both an attribute of God and a gift from Him (John 14:16; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

**Exhortation:** it becomes the basis of appeal for Paul. There can be no real joy when disputing believers fail to obey Christ's command to be one (John 17:21).

# Unity Through Humility - Philippians 2:1 - OBSERVATIONS

**2** Therefore if *there* is any **consolation** in **Christ**, if any **comfort** of **love**, if any **fellowship** of the **Spirit**, if any **affection** and **mercy**,  
<sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

--- Philippians 2:1-2 ... NKJV

# Comfort

## • Conditions for Joy

### 2. COMFORT OF LOVE

The “COMFORT OF LOVE” will produce joy and unity when believers love Christ as they should and when they love one another as Christ has loved them (John 13:34-35).

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” --- John 13:34-35 ... NKJV

The term “COMFORT” conveys the idea of persuasive address, incentive, or stimulus.

Acting out of love, believers should encourage other with their words of **comfort**, their friendship, and their deeds of mercy.

# Unity Through Humility - Philippians 2:1 - OBSERVATIONS

**2** Therefore if *there* is any **consolation** in **Christ**, if any **comfort** of **love**, if any **fellowship** of the **Spirit**, if any **affection** and **mercy**,  
<sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

--- Philippians 2:1-2 ... NKJV

## • Conditions for Joy

### 3. FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT

All believers share in this communion.

The Holy Spirit dwells in each of them, and He joins them all within the one body of Christ.

Genuine submission to Him will produce the nine-fold fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. -- Galatians 5:22-23 ... NKJV



# Unity Through Humility - Philippians 2:1 - OBSERVATIONS

**2** Therefore if *there* is any **consolation** in **Christ**, if any **comfort** of **love**, if any **fellowship** of the **Spirit**, if any **affection** and **mercy**,  
<sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

--- Philippians 2:1-2 ... NKJV

*Mercy*

## • Conditions for Joy

### 4. COMPASSION

The two sides of brotherly compassion are seen in the phrase “AFFECTION AND MERCY”.

The term “AFFECTION” (Greek *splagchnon*: splä'nkh-non) is based on the Greek word that refers to the inner organs of the body (“BOWELS”), thus indicating the seat of human emotions.

The concept of “MERCY” (Greek *oiktirmos*: oik-tēr-mo's) points to outward deeds of mercy caused by inner concern. **Mercy** is the opposite of indifference. Where there is no compassion, there can be neither love nor joy (1 John 3:16-18).

<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup> But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? <sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

--- 1 John 3:16-18 ... NKJV



# Unity Through Humility - Philippians 2:2 - OBSERVATIONS

**2** Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,  
**2** fulfill **my** joy by **being like-minded**, having the **same love**, *being* of **one accord**, of **one mind**.

--- Philippians 2:1-2 ... NKJV



## • Nature of Joy

Paul admonishes the church to increase his joy.

Joy is not mere laughter or a happy smile. Happiness can be manufactured, but joy must be grown. It involves time and obedience.

Three (3) of its essential qualities are expressed in this passage.

### 1. UNITY

Four descriptions of unity are given.

**FIRST**, believers are to be “**LIKE-MINDED**.” The phrase literally reads, “**THAT YOU KEEP ON THINKING THE SAME THING**”. Paul later gave Euodia and Syntyche the same charge (4:2).

God was glorified through the Philippians’ joint evangelistic efforts and holy thought patterns (1:27; 4:8).

# Unity Through Humility - Philippians 2:2 - OBSERVATIONS

**2** Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,  
**2** fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

--- Philippians 2:1-2 ... NKJV

## • Nature of Joy

### 1. UNITY

Four descriptions of unity are given.

**SECOND**, the believers needed to have “**THE SAME LOVE.**” They must love whom and what God loves.

They must love each other with the same love.

They must love God with their total beings, their neighbors as themselves, and their spiritual brothers and sisters as Christ sacrificially loved them (Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:34).

**37** Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

**38** This is *the* first and great commandment.

**39** And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” --- Matthew 22:37-40 ... NKJV



# Unity Through Humility - Philippians 2:2 - OBSERVATIONS

**2** Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,  
**2** fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

--- Philippians 2:1-2 ... NKJV

## • Nature of Joy

### 1. UNITY

Four descriptions of unity are given.

**THIRD**, believers are to be “HAVE THE SAME LOVE.” This phrase literally means “JOINT SOULS” (Greek *sympsychos*: sü'm-psü-khos). As a chain, one believer must be linked together with another child of God.

**FOURTH**, believers must be “OF ONE ACCORD, OF ONE MIND.” Literally, this translates, “THINKING CONSTANTLY THE ONE THING”. The one thing is later explained as the selfless mind of Christ (2:5).

**5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,  
 --- Philippians 2:5 ... NKJV

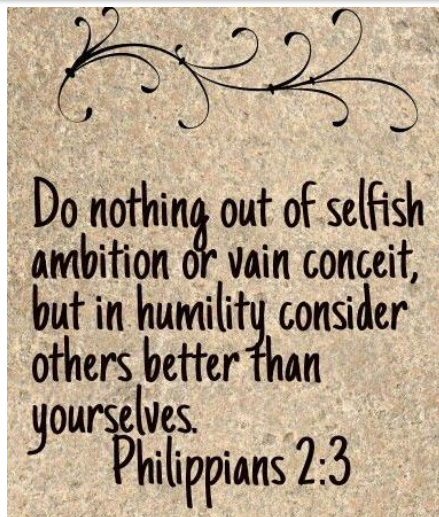


# Unity Through Humility - Philippians 2:3 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>3</sup> Let **nothing** be **done** through selfish **ambition** or **conceit**, but in **lowliness** of **mind** let each **esteem** **others** **better** than **himself**.

<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

--- Philippians 2:3-4 ... NKJV



## • Nature of Joy

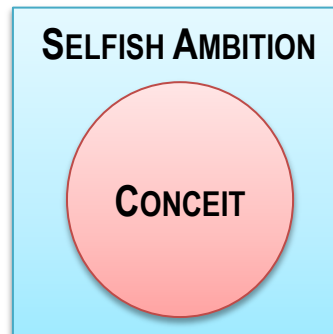
Three (3) of its essential qualities are expressed in this passage.

### 2. HUMILITY - NEGATIVE QUALITY

Humility has both a **negative** and a **positive** quality.

**NEGATIVELY**, believers should not possess a selfish, competitive spirit. The opening words read, “**LET NOTHING BE DONE THROUGH AMBITION OR CONCEIT**”.

Someone has said that conceit is the disease whereas selfish ambition is the symptom. The former is inward and the latter is outward.



**PRIDE AND CONCEIT  
WERE THE ORIGINAL  
SINS OF MAN.**



# Unity Through Humility - Philippians 2:3 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>3</sup> Let **nothing** be **done** through selfish **ambition** or **conceit**, but in **lowliness** of **mind** let each **esteem** **others** **better** than **himself**.

<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

--- Philippians 2:3-4 ... NKJV

**I have a  
problem with  
low self-esteem**  
which is really ridiculous when  
you consider how amazing I am.

## • Nature of Joy

Three (3) of its essential qualities are expressed in this passage.

### 2. HUMILITY - NEGATIVE QUALITY

The sin of selfish ambition is a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:20). It characterizes those who preach out of a faulty motivation (1:15). It also marked the disciples as they argued over which of them was the greatest (Luke 22:24).

The concept behind CONCEIT is that of empty glory.

In appearance it may seem to be impressive, but inside there is no substance. It is like a balloon; the larger it stretches on the outside, the larger the emptiness on the inside. Such vain glory marked the Pharisees and Diotrophes (Matthew 6:1-18; 3 John 1:9).

# Unity Through Humility - Philippians 2:3 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>3</sup> Let **nothing** be **done** through selfish **ambition** or **conceit**, but in **lowliness** of **mind** let each **esteem** **others** **better** than **himself**.

<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

--- Philippians 2:3-4 ... NKJV

## • Nature of Joy

Three (3) of its essential qualities are expressed in this passage.

### 2. HUMILITY - POSITIVE QUALITY

POSITIVELY, believers should have a high opinion of others. This does not mean that Christians should have poor self-image; rather, they should try to lift others up without exalting themselves.

They must have a servant mind, humbling themselves in order to serve others.

They must not think of themselves more highly than they ought to think (Romans 12:3).

*Humility*  
a strange thing.  
The minute you think  
you've got it,  
you've lost it.



# Unity Through Humility - Philippians 2:3 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>3</sup> Let **nothing** be **done** through selfish **ambition** or **conceit**, but in **lowliness** of **mind** let each **esteem** **others** **better** than **himself**.

<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

--- Philippians 2:3-4 ... NKJV

## • Nature of Joy

Three (3) of its essential qualities are expresses in this passage.

## 2. HUMILITY - POSITIVE QUALITY

They should recognize that they are what they are by the grace of God (1 Corinthians 15:10).

<sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me.

--- 1 Corinthians 15:10 ... NKJV

True humility is the mark of spiritual greatness (Matthew 20:26-27).

<sup>26</sup> Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. <sup>27</sup> And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave --- Matthew 20:26-27 ... NKJV

It will rejoice in what God has made of them and what He has done through them (1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 4:6-7).



# Unity Through Humility - Philippians 2:4 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>3</sup> *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

<sup>4</sup> Let **each** of **you** **look out** not only for **his own interests**, but also for the **interests** of **others**.

--- Philippians 2:3-4 ... NKJV

**15** We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Let each of us please *his* neighbor for *his* good, leading to edification.

-- Romans 15:1-2 ... NKJV

## • Nature of Joy

Three (3) of its essential qualities are expressed in this passage.

### 3. CONCERN FOR OTHERS

The verb “LOOK” (Greek *skopeō*: sko-pe'-ō) is the basis of the English word “SCOPE”. It means to keep one’s eye constantly focused on an object.

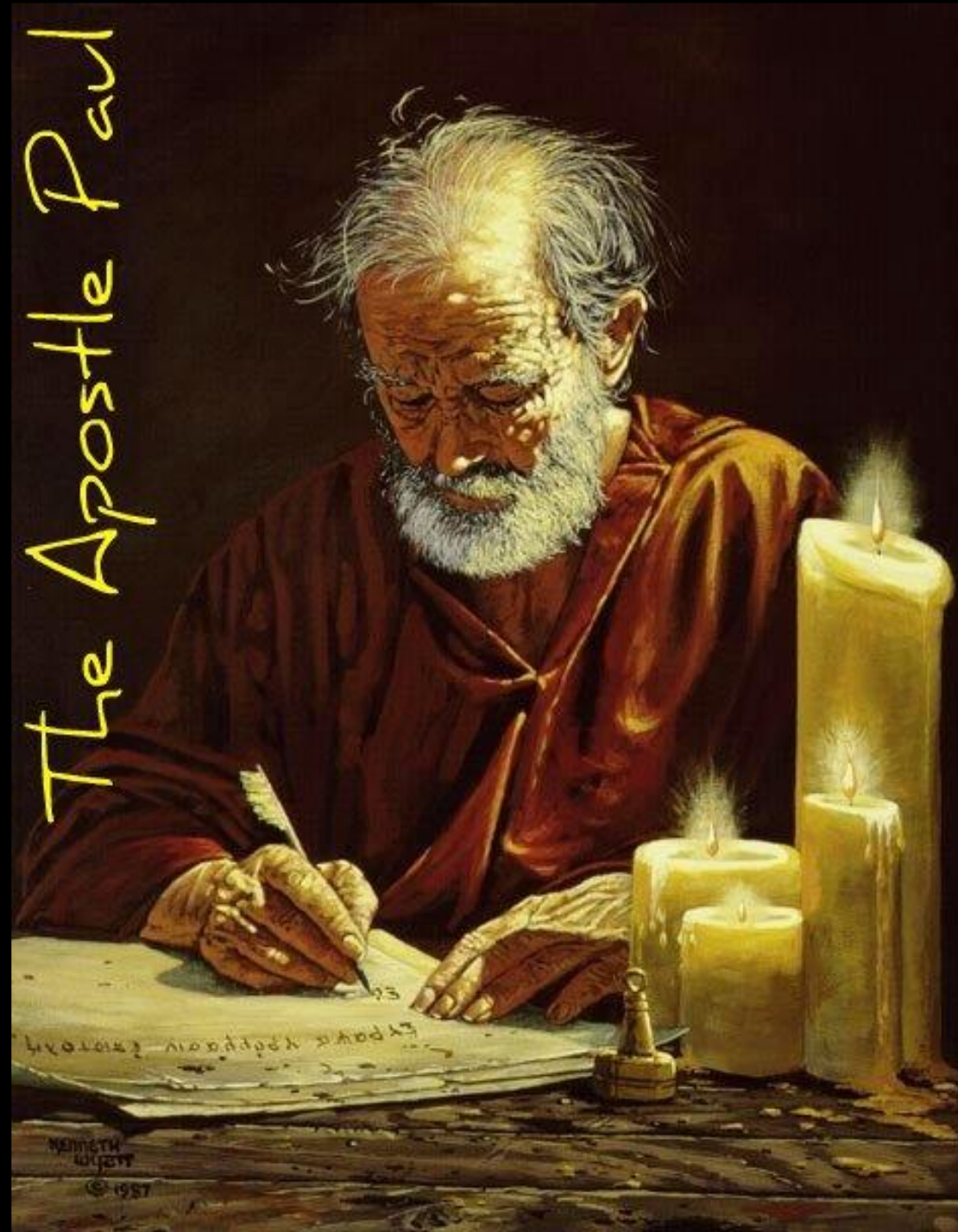
Believers should not merely look out for their “OWN INTERESTS.”

The adversative “BUT” is very emphatic, showing the contrast between selfishness and selflessness.

Believers should ask ...

“What are the needs of my brother/sister?”  
“What can I do to help them? “

We should please others for their edification (Romans 15:1-2).



The Apostle Paul

# Philippians

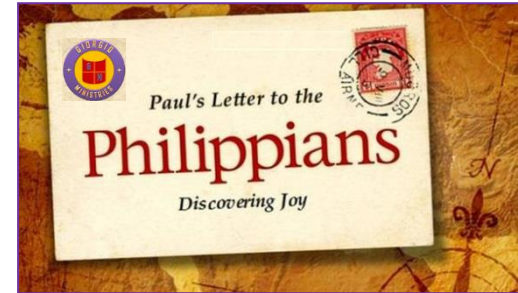
*"Joy In Christ"*

## *End of Lesson*



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# Philippians: Joy In Christ

## Lesson 6: Humiliation and Exaltation

[Philippians 2:5-11]

***Next Lesson***

# Next Lesson

## ■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

- Lesson 01: Introduction ..... [PHILIPPIANS]
- Lesson 02: The Prayer..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11]
- Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles ..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:12-19]
- Lesson 04: Blessings of Life and Death ..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:20-26]
- Lesson 05: Challenge to the Church ..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:4]
- Lesson 06: Humiliation and Exaltation ..... [PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11]
- Lesson 07: Marks of Humble Service ..... [PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16]
- Lesson 08: Three Examples of Humility ..... [PHILIPPIANS 2:17-30]
- Lesson 09: Danger of Legalism ..... [PHILIPPIANS 3:1-6]
- Lesson 10: The Joy of Salvation ..... [PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14]
- Lesson 11: The Joy of Maturity ..... [PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21]
- Lesson 12: The Joy of Peace ..... [PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9]
- Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment ..... [PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23]

