



## **PHILIPPIANS 2**

### ***Philippians 2:1-2 (NIV)***

*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,<sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being **like-minded**, having **the same love**, being **one in spirit and purpose**.*

**What do you think is the connection between the underlined phrases and Paul's desire for the Philippians expressed in bold?**

**What is it that causes fights and tensions in the church? How is this possible?**

**Take some time now and have a few people pray that God would guard the unity of our church. Pray that people would be united with Christ and the Holy Spirit in such a way that we would all work together to accomplish God's purposes.**

### ***Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)***

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.  
<sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

**Why do we find these verses so difficult to apply?**

**If we approached people with this selfless perspective tomorrow, how would our day be different?**

**How can we encourage each other to adopt this attitude?**



This next passage shows the ultimate example of submitting to the Father's purposes and loving others sacrificially - Jesus Christ. The last part of the chapter gives two examples that hit close to home for the Philippians, Timothy and Epaphroditus.

***Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)***

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**Why would Jesus do this? What was his primary motive?**

**Why did Jesus not have to grasp after equality with God?**

**Why do we grasp after things such as love or respect?**

**Because Jesus submitted to the will of the Father he had to go through an extremely painful trial. What is our tendency when following God becomes difficult?**

**Jesus trusted his life to the Father's plan and in the end he was glorified for his sacrifice. Trusting our lives to God's plan can be very challenging, yet what will be our reward if we are faithful?**



The following are very powerful verses about how we should apply these principles in our everyday life.

**Philippians 2:12-18 (NIV)**

*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, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. <sup>14</sup> Do everything without complaining or arguing, <sup>15</sup> 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 <sup>16</sup> 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 labour for nothing. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.*

**What does it mean to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling”?**

**Why does Paul say to do everything without complaining (grumbling) or arguing?**

**What are some keys to going through life without grumbling or arguing?**

**Philippians 2:19-24(NIV)**

*<sup>19</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send **Timothy** to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. <sup>20</sup> I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. <sup>21</sup> For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. <sup>23</sup> I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. <sup>24</sup> And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.*

**In what ways was Timothy another example of an others-centred life?**



**Philippians 2:25-30(NIV)**

<sup>25</sup> But I think it is necessary to send back to you **Epaphroditus**, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. <sup>26</sup> For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. <sup>27</sup> Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. <sup>29</sup> Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, <sup>30</sup> because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

**In what ways was Epaphroditus another example of an others-centred life?**

**How might their examples encourage us?**

**Goal:** Strive this week to partner with Christ in his ministry to those around you. He has placed you in your family, your workplace, school, or whatever environment you find yourself in for **HIS PURPOSES**. His purposes are always about others knowing him.

You can grumble about your circumstances and complain about God's plan or, like Paul, you can seize the opportunity to shine in a dark place and fulfill God's purpose for you! You get to choose. Choose wisely!



<b>Old Testament (39 books)</b>		
<b>History (17)</b>	<b>Poetry (5)</b>	<b>Prophecy (17)</b>
<b>The Law (5) Pentateuch</b>	<b>Job</b> <b>Psalms</b> <b>Proverbs</b> <b>Ecclesiastes</b> <b>Song of Songs</b>	<b>Major Prophets (5) Large</b>
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy		Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel
<b>Other Historical books (12)</b>		<b>Minor Prophets (12) Small</b>
Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther		Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi

This week we encourage you to memorize the Poetry section of the Bible

### **JOB – SONG OF SONGS**

- Job:** The story of one man’s struggle with the Sovereignty of God.
- Psalms:** A collection of songs and poetry.
- Proverbs:** A collection of wise sayings.
- Ecclesiastes:** One man’s struggle with finding fulfillment and meaning in life.
- Song of Songs:** A romantic analogy of God’s love for his people.



*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)*

<b>PASSAGE</b>	<b>THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER</b>	<b>APPLY 1 POINT TODAY</b>
<p><b>DAY 1</b></p> <p><b>Philippians 3:1-3 (NIV)</b>  <i>Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. <sup>2</sup> Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh.</i></p>	<p>There were still Jews claiming that in addition to faith in Jesus you still had to keep Old Covenant laws, such as circumcision in order to be part of God's family.</p> <p>Do I sometimes revert back to thinking I have to "perform" to be acceptable to God?</p> <p>Do I ever rejoice in the fact that I don't have to earn my salvation?</p> <p>Are there certain things I feel I need to do, or others need to do, in order to be declared "good"?</p> <p>Reflect on the terms that define who the righteous are: "we who worship by the Spirit of God", "who glory in Christ Jesus", and "put no confidence in the flesh".          What do each of these mean and do they describe me?</p> <p>What evidence in my life shows that I still try to "measure up"?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>



In the space below, write out the 5 Poetic books of the Bible.

**J** \_\_\_\_\_

**P** \_\_\_\_\_

**P** \_\_\_\_\_

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

**S** \_\_\_\_\_



*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)*

<b>PASSAGE</b>	<b>THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER</b>	<b>APPLY 1 POINT TODAY</b>
<p><b>DAY 2</b></p> <p><b>Philippians 3:4-7 (NIV)</b>  <i>though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.</i></p>	<p>In what things about myself do I tend to take pride?</p> <p>What accomplishments in my life have evoked the most pride?</p> <p>How do all these fall short of what I really long for, or should be longing for?</p> <p>What do I find I tend to strive after the most?</p> <p>Do any of these things make me more “righteous” before God? Do any of them really count for anything?</p> <p>They may not have been “wrong” in and of themselves, but are these measurements that I’ve used in my life helps or hindrances?</p> <p>Where does Jesus fit into the picture of my life with regard to my value? Why does Paul consider all these life assets as a loss compared to knowing Christ?</p> <p>What perspective changes do I need to make in my life?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>



In the space below, write out the 5 Poetic books of the Bible.

**J** \_\_\_\_\_  
**P** \_\_\_\_\_  
**P** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E** \_\_\_\_\_  
**S** \_\_\_\_\_



*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)*

<b>PASSAGE</b>	<b>THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER</b>	<b>APPLY 1 POINT TODAY</b>
<p><b>DAY 3</b></p> <p><b>Philippians 3:8-11 (NIV)</b>  <i>What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,<sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.</i></p>	<p>Paul was willing to give up everything for Jesus...and he did. Is there anything in my life I would not be willing to give up? Where I live, my job, acceptance from family or friends, a promotion, comfort, etc.?</p> <p>Paul considered all the things he used to think were important as rubbish compared to knowing Jesus. Are there things that get in the way of me knowing Jesus more deeply?</p> <p>Paul desperately wanted the new life Jesus offered and was willing to forsake whatever didn't move him in that direction. How badly do I want to experience the Christ life? Am I willing to let go of everything in my life?</p> <p>Am I willing to suffer as Jesus suffered?</p> <p>Am I willing to say, "not my will but yours be done" in every situation?</p> <p>Do I look forward with anticipation to the resurrection? Does that show in my life?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>



In the space below, write out the next 5 books of the Bible.

**J** \_\_\_\_\_  
**P** \_\_\_\_\_  
**P** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E** \_\_\_\_\_  
**S** \_\_\_\_\_

To what category do these five books belong? \_\_\_\_\_



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<b>PASSAGE</b>	<b>THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER</b>	<b>APPLY 1 POINT TODAY</b>
<p><b>DAY 4</b></p> <p><b>Philippians 3:12-16 (NIV)</b>  <i>Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us live up to what we have already attained.</i></p>	<p>For what reason did Christ take hold of my life?</p> <p>Am I actively working with Christ to accomplish his purpose in my life or am I focused in my own directions?</p> <p>What goal am I “straining” toward? What does my life show to be the focus of my life?</p> <p>I’ve already received forgiveness, been adopted into God’s family, been declared righteous, received the Holy Spirit and am now called his Representative. What does it mean to live up to what I’ve already attained?</p> <p>In what ways am I doing this?</p> <p>In what ways am I not?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>



In the space below, write out the 5 Poetic books of the Bible.

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<b>PASSAGE</b>	<b>THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER</b>	<b>APPLY 1 POINT TODAY</b>
<p><b>DAY 5</b></p> <p><b>Philippians 3:17-21 (NIV)</b>  <i>Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. <sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.</i></p> <p><b>Philippians 4:1 (NIV)</b>  <i>Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!</i></p>	<p>What can I model from the life of Paul?</p> <p>Who is someone around me I respect spiritually? What is one thing I respect in their life that I could begin to model?</p> <p>Is my mind mainly focused on earthly things? Does this make me a less content person?</p> <p>Does this keep me from having eternal impact? Is this meaningless?</p> <p>How might understanding “heaven is my home” change how I live on this earth?</p> <p>If my focus is on returning home someday, how might I start preparing for that reality?</p> <p>Do I really eagerly await Christ’s return? Does my life show this?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>

