
REVIEW OF CHAPTER TWO

"To live is Christ, to die is gain." Has it become your mantra yet? I'm so thankful that we are all a work in progress. May Christ become our all in all as we continue to grow in the knowledge and grace of our Savior. As is our practice, anytime we are opening the word of God, take a moment to ask for His teaching more than our minds, may He teach our hearts so that we will be forever changed. Then let's look at a review of Ch. 2.

I don't know about you, but Chapter two has been so chock full of conviction that I almost feel I should go back and spend some extra time in confession! The good news is that "He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (emphasis mine). Our God is not a God of guilt, but of grace, and once we have repented we don't have to carry the guilt any longer. We are forgiven women. Let's live in the light of His grace rather than the guilt of the past. It's all possible because of Christ!

Let's take today to review Philipians 2. Spend the time to read the chapter and then briefly review the lessons from each day over the past two weeks.

It begins with

"Therefore [since] there is any encouragement in Christ,
[since] there is any consolation of love, [since] there is any fellowship
of the Spirit,[since] any affection and compassion," (Philippians 2:1 NASB).

Remember the "if" in this text is a first class condition *if* meaning *it is true*, which is the same as saying, "*since*."

Paul gives us a list of things we have in Christ: There is encouragement - need any of that? It's available in Christ. What about consoling through love? We may not always get consoling

love from those around us but in Christ we always have it. We have fellowship with the Holy Spirit of God, pretty amazing statement there. And then, there's affection and compassion. We aren't always recipients or givers of any of these things but isn't it a wonderful thought to know that in Christ every one of those things is ours?

Paul says, here's what you have, but he doesn't leave it there.

Look at Chapter 2 v. 2-4 and write down what he wants in response:

And there's the crux of it, humility and obedience. The key in chapter two, and truly for the whole letter is summed up in v. 5-8.

Christ as our example was humble and obedient. He came to earth out of His great love for us, to follow the Father's plan, implemented by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. That's why it's so vital for us to stay in fellowship with the Spirit of God. Apart from Him we can do nothing, but in Him we have access to all these things; we can be humble, we can be obedient and we can be loving as He calls us to be.

What impacted you the most in Chapter Two?

Here are some of the reminders from our lessons:

~ Our motivation and attitude toward service should not be done out of selfishness or pride, but we should think of others as more important than ourselves and evaluate the needs of others. All of this is possible because of our position in Christ.

~ Our attitude should be the same as Christ's, having the mind of Christ in all our circumstances and situations. It's available to us through His word and Spirit.

~ Our salvation is carried to its natural conclusion when we use the mind of Christ to perform good works that glorify God.

~ Our reverential awe of God and our radical, total dependency upon Him is what helps us carry our salvation to the right conclusion.

~ God is continually operating in us. We must make the decision to either serve Him or self.

~ We are commanded to do all things without grumbling or complaining (we didn't see Christ doing that, did we?)

~ Our obedience results in our being lights to the world. holding fast the word of life for others to see.

~ We are to labor for Christ - it's a productive life, a life of service and sacrifice, either as a direct sacrifice or a drink offering.

~ Faith is a prerequisite. But be careful of what, or whom, we are placing our faith in.

~ Grace is appropriated, the resources of heaven are at our disposal, supplying every need to accomplish the service or sacrifice.

~ Rejoicing results, even in trials, because we KNOW God is working all things to our good.

The examples of Christ, even Paul, Timothy and Epaphraditus should encourage and inspire us in our walk.

Living in humility and obedience is the example Christ gave us, but when submission is hard, and obedience seems as if it will break your heart, just know that God is always faithful. He has purpose in it, and His rewards, well, those are more than we can comprehend, for who can fathom the grace that provides eternity with our Creator?

In Christ we are found blameless, innocent, daughters of the King of kings. When we live a life of humility and obedience it furthers His gospel, and brings Him the glory due. One of the greatest by-products is that it brings peace and inner joy that cannot be found outside the will of God. In the meantime, He uses those things to hone us, to shape and mold us, and as Paul states, though we may not have attained it yet, it's imperative to press on toward the upward prize. That is our call. That is our purpose. That is our reward! Walk in humility, obedience and love!