

# Philippians Study Week 4

## Philippians 2:9-18

Our mindset is everything, and often we are selfish, self focused and live for the approval of others. We must work hard at destroying our selfish tendencies and work hard at serving others. One of the problems of a selfish mindset is that it destroys unity within the church. We are better together and were created to be apart of the body, not disjointed.

**\*\*\*Read Philippians 2:9-18\*\*\***

### ABOVE EVERY OTHER NAME

Verses 9-11 speak of the last judgement and how all people will recognize Jesus' authority. Paul uses words like every knee will bow and every tongue will confess He is Lord. We have the choice to recognize Jesus as Lord now, or if we don't, be forced to acknowledge Him when He returns... which could be any moment.

- **Have you acknowledged Jesus as Lord? Are you prepared for His return? Do you ever think about the fact that Jesus is coming back and it could be anytime?**
  - Read the following verses and discuss how they are related
    - Matthew 28:18
    - Acts 2:33
    - Hebrews 2:9
    - Ephesians 1:21
    - Isaiah 45:23
    - Romans 14:11
    - Ephesians 1:10
    - John 13:13
    - Romans 10:9
    - Romans 14:9

**\*\*\*Read Philippians 2:12-13\*\*\***

Verse 12 talks about working out or showing the results of your salvation, which is tied to the previous verses which talked about unity. I believe Paul is urging the whole church to work together for unity and destroy any division and discord within the church. The Phillipian Christians needed to be diligent in following Jesus because Paul was no longer there telling them how to live. We also must be careful and mindful of how we live when we are on our own.

- **What is the value of having solid Christian leaders in your life? Name the people in your life who are leading you like Paul was leading the Phillipian Christians. What does it mean to “work hard to show the results of your salvation”?**
  - Read the following verses and discuss how they relate
    - Hebrews 5:9
    - 2 Corinthians 7:15
    - Romans 12:3
    - 1 Corinthians 12:6
  - So what do we do when we have a hard time obeying? The good news is God has not left us alone in our struggle. God’s desire is to walk alongside us and help us to do His will. Here is something cool, He helps us *want* to obey, and then gives us the *power* to do what He wants! So many people struggle in life, and this is where the breakdown happens... submitting to God. The secret to a changed and amazing life is submitting to God’s will and letting Him work in you.
    - 1 Corinthians 15:10
    - Hebrews 13:21
    - Ephesians 1:5
  - We must work hard and train ourselves to be like Jesus. We cannot grow and change on our own, we need help. First, we need the power of the Holy Spirit to do this work. Second, we need people in our lives who are further along than we are and can lead us to be more like Jesus. Third, we need the Bible, not just listening to sermons, but digging and and studying it on our own. Lastly, we need to get out of our own way and serve serve serve! Serving others destroys our selfish tendencies and keeps our minds on things from above.
    - Ephesians 5:18
    - Romans 8:9
    - Proverbs 13:20
    - Colossians 3:16

- Hebrews 4:12
- 2 Timothy 3:15-17
- Do what God wants and trust Him to change your life!

**\*\*\*Read Philippians 2:14-16\*\*\***

Have you ever thought about why complaining and arguing are so damaging? Belief in Jesus should bring unity and peace and not the opposite. If all people know about you or a church is that you constantly argue, complain, and fight, then what good is the message of the good news of the Gospel? Christians... stop fighting, arguing and complaining with other Christians and let the world see Jesus!

- **In light of verse 14, do you complain and argue often? Looking back at your past relationships, in the church especially, has there been a pattern of discord?**
  - Read the following verses and discuss how they relate
    - 1 Corinthians 10:10
    - 1 Peter 4:9
  - As believers, our lives should be characterized by the fruits of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, selfcontrol) and moral purity so that we can be lights to a dark and dying world. Your life transformed is the greatest testimony, but too many of us Christians have not allowed God to transform our WHOLE lives. Ask yourself, have you allowed God to transform your whole life? Are you shining bright for Jesus? Or are you held back by bad attitudes, complaining or arguing?
    - Matthew 5:45
    - Ephesians 5:1
    - Matthew 5:14-16
    - Galatians 2:2
    - Isaiah 49:4

**\*\*\*Read Phillipians 2:17-18\*\*\***

The liquid or drink offering was an important part of the sacrificial system for the Jewish people. However, the Phillipian church did not have much knowledge of the Jewish system, so he may have been referring to a pagan ritual of pouring wine to deities.

Whatever the reference, what Paul is talking about is how he saw his life as a sacrifice... and so should we.

- **Are you living your life as a sacrifice to God? How committed are you to serving Jesus, or others?**
  - 2 Corinthians 12:15
  - 2 Timothy 4:6
  - Romans 15:16
  - Paul was content, even if he were to die, because he was serving others and helping them live for Jesus! When you give you whole life to Jesus, serve Him with everything you have, and serve others... you will be truly content.