

Love Letters

Philippians 2

The letter to the Philippians is often referred to as the epistle of joy & it is easy to understand why. Paul wrote it out of his adversity as a prisoner at a time when he had learned to be joyful & content in his circumstances.

Read Philippians 2

Unity Through Humility ~

1. From your initial reading of Philippians 2, what stands out to you about the nature & example of Jesus Christ?
2. Challenge yourself: Using the four specifics in vs 1, list the ways in which unity is possible by finishing Paul's thought. The first is grouped together for you by way of example. Think about these & the potential harmony brought to the body of Christ.
 - a. Since there is consolation [encouragement] in Christ:
Fulfill my joy by being like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind (vs 2).
 - b. Since there is comfort of love: (finish the thought using vs 3a)
 - c. Since there is fellowship of the Spirit: (finish the thought using vs 3b)
 - d. Since there is affection & mercy: (finish the thought using vs 4)

Humbled & Exalted ~

Reread Philippians 2:5-11

Trace the steps flowing downward of Christ's humility on our behalf in vs 5-11. (Fill in the blanks below).

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God,
did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but ..."

(Follow the example done for you.)

(vs 7a): Made Himself of no reputation

(vs 7b): Taking the form of a bondservant

(vs 7c): _____

(vs 8a): _____

(vs 8b): _____

(vs 8c): _____

Now, beginning at the bottom (which is done for you), trace the upward steps of Christ's exaltation in vs 9–11.

(vs 11a) _____

(vs 10c) _____

(vs 10b) _____

(vs 10a) _____

(vs 9b) And given Him the name which is above every name

(vs 9a) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him

Christlikeness: You Shine! ~

Reread Philippians 2:12–18

1. What wake-up call is Paul issuing in vs 12–13?
2. What is the overriding principle Paul gave them? (vs 14)
3. In your own words, detail the picture believers are to present to the rest of the world:
 - a. Vs 15
 - b. Vs 16
4. How did Paul view his service to these dear believers (vs 17–18)?
 - a. What did he expect from them in return?

Proven Character ~

Reread Philippians 2:19–30

1. Look closely at vs 19–24; what does Paul say about Timothy in the following:
 - a. His relationship with Paul?
 - b. His different lifestyle?
 - c. His service to the church?
2. Now look closely at vs 25–30; what does Paul say about Epaphroditus:
 - a. His relationship with Paul?
 - b. His personal sacrifice?
 - c. His service to the church?

In Touch with Jesus ~

1. **LISTEN:** In what way did the Lord Jesus meet you in His Word this week? Be specific.
2. **LEARN:** How can you apply this understanding to your daily Christian walk?
3. **LIVE:** What step of obedience will you purpose to take in our walk of faith this week?