

LESSON 10 – HUMBLE SERVICE FOR OTHERS

Philippians 2:1-30

Summary

Paul was apparently not absolutely certain of his trial's outcome. He wants them to rejoice with him, if he is martyred. He promises to send Timothy to them as soon as the result of his sentence and judgment are known, but he hopes to personally come and greet them himself. Nevertheless, the chapter opens with vital instruction for how they should humbly serve and esteem each other, just as Christ humbled Himself and served us, even to the point of dying on the cross. Paul begins preparing them for the inevitable day that they must continue to pursue their own salvation without his direct intervention. In light of this looming absence, Paul's instruction to seek each other's best interests – because soon that will be the only intervening influence they will have – becomes all the more pointed. Epaphroditus, who served as a messenger for the church, carrying their financial support for Paul, is sent home and commended as further example of selfless sacrifice for the Lord. Faithful workers in the Lord could be expected to continue in selfless service in Paul's absence, and should have therefore been appreciated.

Bible Reading With Questions

Esteem Others Better Than Oneself – Philippians 2:1-4

1. How does the beginning of chapter 2 connect logically to the end of chapter 1? Why does Paul begin chapter 2 with the logical connection word, “*therefore*”?
2. How can Christians *use* church to advance their own “*selfish ambition or conceit*”? How can we detect this problem in ourselves and cut it off?

Have the Humble Mind of the Exalted Jesus– Philippians 2:5-11

3. Was Jesus divine before coming to earth? If so, did He give up that deity by coming to earth?
4. Why did God exalt Jesus?
5. Since every tongue will confess Jesus, and since every knee will bow before Jesus, can we expect a universal salvation – that everyone will be saved?

Work Out Your Own Salvation – Philippians 2:12-18

6. Why was it critical for the Philippians to continue to seek their own salvation?
7. Does God's working in us change our will? If so, does this eliminate our free moral agency? Please explain.

8. What is essential to us becoming “*blameless and harmless, children of God without fault*”?
9. How could the Philippians have been glad and rejoiced with Paul as he was “*poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith*”?

Esteem Selfless, Trustworthy Workers in the Lord and Companions of Paul – Philippians 2:19-30

10. What high honor did Paul pay to Timothy, and how did Timothy acquire such recognition?
11. What was Epaphroditus’ relationship between the Philippian church and Paul?
12. Why was Epaphroditus’ life spared? What can we learn about prayer from this example?
13. Why did Epaphroditus almost die? Lessons?