

PASTOR RUSS HURST  
FIRST A/G FORT MYERS, FL  
2/24/21

# PHILIPPIANS

## The Letter of Joy

### CHAPTER 2

#### RECAP OF CHAPTER 1

- Philippi was the church that blessed Paul's heart the most. They were the one's who had reciprocated his love, and had lived their faith out in a purity that other churches he established hadn't.
- The city of Philippi was a miniature version of Rome. It was a Rome away from Rome in every respect.
- The Roman language was spoken. The Roman dress was worn. Roman customs, currencies, titles, laws, entertainment, ceremonies, and everything else was the norm.
- The church in Philippi was founded in the most unusual way. God gave Paul divine appointments at a river with an influential woman named Lydia, through casting a demon out of a fortune telling slave girl, and through winning his jailor to Christ when God supernaturally set him free from prison.
- (vs12-13) Paul assures the concerned church of Philippi that he is in chains because Christ is allowing him to be. I'm sure many of them struggled, like we do today when we see godly Christians suffer.
- "The whole praetorian guard" came to know that Paul was IN CHAINS FOR CHRIST!
- God is using that which bound Paul to set other's free. This is one of the most beautiful and encouraging truths. God doesn't waste anything. No outward force will ever stop God from building His Kingdom through His children.

PAUL... "MY VICTORY HAS COME BECAUSE I'M IN CHAINS"  
YOU... "MY CHAINS AREN'T GONE, BUT I'M STILL VICTORIOUS!"

## **POWER VERSE: (VS21) “FOR TO ME, TO LIVE IS CHRIST AND TO DIE IS GAIN.”**

- When we are in a totally committed, devoted, love relationship with Christ, the cry of our heart should be of being with Him forever! When you think about Christ in His glory and heaven, why would we want to be here on earth?
- Paul not knowing if he would see the Philippian church again switches his focus to their greatest need.
- (vs27-28) No matter what happens to him, Paul simply wants to hear that his church family in Philippi are in unity in the Spirit, united in their living out their faith, and boldly like him in adversity. These characteristics let those who are against Christ know they are already defeated.
- (vs29-30) With the victory that comes from being united with Christ and His church, is the guarantee that there will be sufferings.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **THE CAUSES & CURE OF DISUNITY (2:1-4)**

- (vs1-2) Paul asks the church to do a self evaluation of what they’ve received and benefitted from in Christ. That which you have received so beautifully, freely give and live out to others.
- Paul’s appeal is a personal one. The last thing I need to complete my joy in you, is that you will be one as Christ and the Father are one.
- Paul knew the greatest danger that can come to a healthy church is disunity.
- (vs3-4) Paul lists the three great causes of disunity. He is giving the church a spiritual checklist again to hold themselves accountable against. Only we and the Holy Spirit can monitor our own motives.
- #1 Personal Ambition- “There is always a danger in human nature where people work towards advancing in their work not for the work itself but for personal advancement.” William Barclay
- These types of people want the position primarily not to serve others, but to be served themselves.
- #2 Personal Prestige- This temptation is even greater than the temptation of wealth itself. This person finds their value and wealth is in how much their perceived worth is. Their wealth is in themselves!
- #3 Personal Focus- This is the temptation where someone is all about what they want to have accomplished. It’s about their desires, their tastes, their personal convictions of what should be.

- Notice all three of these causes of disunity are based on selfish motivations. It's about them and their wants and desires. They're focus is not about Christ or about His church.
- (vs5) Paul tells us that our benchmark in how to live out our faith with others is found in Christ Himself.
- Even though we are equal, we should consider ourselves less than others. Instead of the desire to be served, our desire should be to be servants of all.
- (vs6-8) Some scholars consider this the greatest and most moving passage Paul wrote about Jesus!
- (vs6) The Greek word for "nature" is *morphe*. It means a never altering, unchangeable form.
- (vs7) The Greek word for "slave" is *ginesthai*. It describes a changing phase that is completely real but passes eventually. The manhood of Jesus was completely real, but it passed away.
- (vs8) Although Jesus was God, He became, lived amongst, and served in the lowest capacity. He died a torturous death on the cross for all of mankind's sins. He who was greatest, became utterly least. The entire weight and punishment of everyone who ever lived rested on Him on the cross.
- In light of His absolute greatness, the fact Christ was so utterly humble makes him that more beautiful.

**POWER VERSES: (VS9-11) "THEREFORE GOD EXALTED HIM TO THE HIGHEST PLACE AND GAVE HIM THE NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH, AND EVERY TONGUE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF THE FATHER."**

- (vs9) Jesus literally fulfilled that which he taught His disciples in Mark 9:35. "Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last and servant of all."
- (vs9) The word for "exalted" in the Greek is *huperupsoo*. The preposition *huper* strengthens and magnifies the verb *upsoo* to intensify its meaning. It rarely was ever used or found in the classic Greek. It's the only time Paul uses this word. It was saved for Jesus alone. He was highly exalted above all.

- There is no greater name or word in heaven and on earth that we could ever utter or call on. Why? Because there is no one greater than the person behind the name Jesus. He who became least is greatest.
- (vs10-11) There is coming a day where every person who has ever lived will acknowledge the qualities of Jesus. They will proclaim in posture, with their own tongue, in unison with all of creation, “Jesus is Lord!”
- (vs10-11) The word “Lord” in the Greek is *kurios*. The word developed in its meaning throughout history. First, it meant master or owner. Then it became the official title of Roman Emperors. It then became title to heathen gods. It was the word by which the Hebrew word *Jehovah* was translated in the Greek version of the Hebrew scriptures. So, when Jesus was called *kurios*, Lord, it meant that he was Master and the Owner of all life; he was the King of kings; he was the Lord in a way that could only be held for the divine.
- “Jesus Christ is Lord” was the first creed the New Testament church ever had. It sums up everything we hold true, believe, and strive to be faithful to.
- Jesus’ goal was to be obedient and glorify the Father. The Father’s desire was to glorify the Son.
- This is the life to which we are called. How we live it out is purely expressed on the way we love those around us. Jesus is so beautiful! Being His child is so beautiful. Being called to be like Him, such a privilege and honor.

*“So the follower of Christ must think always, not of himself but of others, not of his own glory but of the glory of God.” William Barclay*