

# PHILIPPIANS Lesson 18

## Chapter 2, verses 1-3: Living for Others, Reaping Joy

22 August 2022

Philippians 2 teaches us that the death of the Lord Jesus Christ not only provided the means to save our soul and pay for our sins but stands also as the supreme and everlasting example of how a Christian is to live in a love relationship toward others.

**Vs 1** “**If there be therefore any consolation in Christ...**” This is stating a fact: there IS consolation (comfort, relief) in Christ. *Chapter 1* spoke of Christians who were suffering physically and emotionally in this troubled world. *Chapter 2* begins addressing what would make someone feel better under those circumstances.

“**...if any comfort of love...**” Love may not take away the pain, but it does provide comfort. Jesus, in His love for us, sent us the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. As He loves and comforts us, we also learn to provide loving comfort to our brothers and sisters in Christ as they go through trials and struggles.

“**...if any fellowship of the Spirit...**” When we allow the Holy Spirit to use our body to minister God’s comforting love to others, we will enjoy sweet fellowship with the Holy Spirit. When we fail to love one another and minister to others, choosing instead to live for self, it grieves the Spirit.

“**...if any bowels and mercies...**” We must follow from our heart (our inner man), the example set by the Lord Jesus Christ in leaving heaven’s glory and laying down His life for others. When we do that, we will enjoy very rich blessings, as will those to whom we minister.

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**Vs 2** “**Fulfil ye my joy...**” (Philippians is a book of joy). Joy is the desired outcome from these actions.

“**...That ye be likeminded...**” It is God’s will that we live under His control, by His holy words, for the benefit of others. When we all have that mindset, we will know the joy that God desires for us.

“**...having the same love...**” Self-love will hinder and ruin a relationship. Godly love for the other party will make every relationship wonderful.

“**being of one accord...**” When everyone has a common goal and purpose (the desire to bring honor and glory to God), great things can be accomplished resulting in great joy.

- See **Romans 15:5-7** for a cross-reference. Likeminded, with one mind, one mouth, glorifying God.

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**Vs 3** “**Let each esteem other better than themselves.**” This involves eliminating **strife** (competition), **vainglory** (exalting ourselves), and being **lowly-minded**.

- We are instructed to regard every individual that we come across in our day to day lives as someone who is more important than ourselves.
  - When you can accomplish that, you will be living as Jesus lived, you will be a blessing to others, and you will know JOY that you could have never known had you chosen to live a selfish life.
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