

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 2

Introduction and verse 1, Paul the Servant

2 May 2022

Overview:

Chapter 1: Jesus Christ is our life.

Chapter 2: Jesus Christ ought to be in control of our thought life.

Chapter 3: Jesus Christ is the One that we are striving for.

Chapter 4: Jesus Christ is all we need to supply everything we may need in this life.

If you are aiming to be like Jesus Christ, you will shun worldly behaviours and objectives and instead engage in godly activities with God enabling you to reach your goal.

- It will help you in your relationships with the brethren.
- It will help you to press on when you might otherwise quit.
- Paul's desire was to **"win Christ"** (3:8), to **"know Him"** (3:10), to **"attain"** (3:11), and **"apprehend"** (3:12).
- Modern Christianity isn't encouraging Christians to be like Christ. It is teaching covetousness and greed.
- Through Christ, you will learn to be content, whether up or down, rich or poor, etc. (4:11-12) This is the context of **"I can do all things through Christ..."** (4:13).
 - Poverty can make some Christians quit serving the Lord. They don't know how to be abased.
 - Success can ruin a Christian and make them useless to the Lord. They don't know how to abound.
 - **In the flesh**, poverty will ruin you and success will ruin you. **In Christ**, you can do all things, whether abased or abounding.
 - **In the flesh**, being hungry and suffering need (4:12) will stop you from serving. Being full and abounding can also hinder your ability to serve. In Christ you learn to **"abound and to be in want"** and not quit.
- No matter what your situation in life, you can still have joy and rejoicing as God strengthens you. Note: **"Joy"** or **"rejoicing"** is found 16 times in this epistle.
- The word **"All"** occurs 26 times in Philippians. No believer is excluded from the availability of God's blessings in Christ Jesus.

VERSE BY VERSE (read verses 1-7)

The theme, "joy and rejoicing" is remarkable, considering that Paul was in bonds as he wrote this letter (vs 7, 13, 14, 16). Though he was a prisoner facing execution, Paul still finds reasons to rejoice in the Lord.

Vs 1 **"Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ."** Paul introduces himself in this epistle as a SERVANT of Jesus Christ. In most of Paul's epistles, he speaks of himself as being an APOSTLE (Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus). Paul never mentions his apostleship in Philippians. **Here is why:**

1. **The church in Philippi is in good order.** Paul does not rebuke these believers or correct any problems or heresies in this epistle. Therefore, there is no need to establish his authority.
2. **There is no NEW doctrine being set forth in this epistle.** This is a friendly letter to the brethren.
3. **This church is well-established.** An apostle's work is to go to a new town, preach the gospel, win people to Christ, and establish a new local church. This had already been accomplished. The church at Philippi already has saints, bishops, and deacons (vs 1). There is no further need of an apostolic ministry with this church.
4. **The term "servant" fits the theme of this letter.** Paul speaks of Christ's example as a servant (2:5-6) and so, he speaks humbly to these brethren as their servant (1:1) dying in a Christ-like fashion (3:10).

"...to all the Saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi with the bishops and deacons." Notice that Paul addresses the saints before the bishop and deacons. This order is significant, revealing that nobody in the church is more important than anybody else. This teaches the pastors and deacons that they must put the saints ahead of themselves to serve them properly.