

7-31-24 – Philippians – Week 4

Intro. The prisoner encourages the free... “How to live” as Christians guide.

Phil. 2:1-2 – NIV – “Therefore if you have any **encouragement** from being united with Christ, if any **comfort** from his love, if any **common sharing** in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,² then make my joy complete **by being like-minded**, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.”

- “Therefore”... b/c we’re citizens of heaven - live worthy of the gospel.
- **“Like Minded” “Have the same Mind of Christ”** – be what we’ve received
- Live each day effected by Jesus’ love.
 - Paul is **happy** seeing **lives changed** ... shown in “**same love**” of Jesus
 - He focuses on 3 things:
 - **Encouragement** comes from relationship w/Jesus. **Hope**.
 - God opens doors no one can close.
 - When he’s on your side, who can be against you?
 - **Comfort** from his love: it’s eternal, unchanging, independent
 - **Common Sharing** in H.S. - it **changes us** ... if we live by Spirit:
 - **GAL. 5:** ²²“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control.”
 - H.S. gives us tender & compassionate hearts.
 - Followers of Jesus – citizens of Heaven - live differently - changed.
Respond differently. Act with the Mind of Christ.
 - Don’t **react** to life . . . **respond** w/ same love, spirit & mind of Jesus.

HOW? Phil. 2:3-11 – NIV – ³“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵In your relationships with one another, **have the same mindset as Christ Jesus**: ⁶Who, being in **very nature God**, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very **nature** of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Followers of Jesus should act like Him. Do nothing of selfish/vain ambition.

- Don't just think of our own desires/interests. Getting ahead all costs.
- Efforts are to **honor God**, not ourselves. Applause of God/Man?
 - **Matt. 6** - “Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. ² When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. ³ But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴ Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.”
 - When we show off – perform – MSG: **“God won't be applauding”**
 - Moses missed Promised Land b/c he took credit for the water
- **Value Others** above yourself. Put another's interest first. **Not Selfish.**
 - Don't like to admit we're selfish... but all struggle w/this at times.
- **Why do this?** B/c it's how Jesus lived. He lived out the interests of God.
 - His time was often interrupted by the needs of others.
 - He lived to show us the love of God – eating w/sinners. Uproar!
 - He lived each day to die – so eternal unity w/ God's love was possible.
- **To act like Him . . . What was the mindset of Christ?**
 - Had equal status w/God but didn't cling to advantages of that status
 - Jesus set aside the privileges of deity & became a Man.
 - The King lived as a Servant. (serve others/ not “slave”)
 - The Powerful helped the powerless. (can't change things)
 - The Rich gave to the poor. (shall supply all our needs)
 - The Healer came to the sick. (by his stripes...)
 - Love gave itself . . . **Eph 5:2** – “Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
 - Live to honor Jesus' sacrifice. Be a credit to Him by living like Him.
 - Live “one in **spirit** & one in **mind**” –
- **Song of Week – “The Goodness of God” – by The Nelons**