

A Study of the Book of Philippians

Theme: "OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL!"

Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, OK.
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Lesson: 11 Chapter 2:1-11

Date: 11-3-19

BIBLE TEXT:



(1) So if there is any encouragement in **Christ**, any comfort from love, any participation in **the Spirit**, any affection and sympathy, (2) complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (3) Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (4) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

(5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in **Christ Jesus**, (6) **who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (9) Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

(12) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, (13) for it is **God** who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (14) Do all things without grumbling or questioning, (15) that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (16) holding fast to the word of life, so that in **the day of Christ** I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

(17) Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. (18) Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

(19) I hope in **the Lord Jesus** to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. (20) For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. (21) They all seek their own interests, not those of **Jesus Christ**. (22) But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. (23) I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, (24) and I trust in **the Lord** that shortly I myself will come also.

(25) I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, (26) for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. (27) Indeed he was ill, near to death. But **God** had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. (28) I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. (29) So receive him in **the Lord** with all joy, and honor such men, (30) for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

STUDY NOTES:

(vv. 1-11) The Trinity: *encouragement in Christ (Gal 2:20) participation in the Spirit (2 Cor 13:14) to the glory of God the Father. (Rom 8:15)*

Note: *vv. 6-11 seem to be an early Christian hymn adapted by Paul (Col 3:16)*

The Deity of Christ - the form of God, equality with God (John 1:1-13; Col 1:15; 2:9,10)

The Humanity of Christ – made himself nothing, the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men, And being found in human form, he humbled himself

(Mt 20:28; Mk 9:4; John 1:14; 13:3,4; Rom 8:3; Gal 4:4; 2 Cor 13:4)

the humiliation of Christ: (Dt. 21:22,23; 2 Cor 8:9)

he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

the exaltation of Christ: (Mt 28:18; Acts 2:33; Eph 1:21; Heb 1:4;)

God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name

the descent of Christ into hell to proclaim his victory to those “under the earth”

(Eph 4:8-10; 1 Pet 3:18-20)

The glory of Christ on the Last Day:

(Mt 25:31; Is 45:23; Rom 14:9-11; Eph 1:10;

Rev 4:2-11; 5:1-14; 7:9-17)

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus Christ is Lord – a creed and profession of faith

(Mt 1:21; Jn 13:13; Rom 10:9; 14:9; 1 Cor 12:3)

Therefore we live like Christ:

any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in **Christ Jesus**

(Rom 12:10-16; Gal 5:13-26; Eph 4:1-10; 5:10-21; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Pet 5:5-10)

LIFE APPLICATION:

How can a congregation exhibit affection and sympathy, have complete joy and be of the same mind, have the same love, and **be in full accord and of one mind?**

Luther’s Works: Vol. 29, Page 198

“Therefore it happens in the New Testament that while the Word of life, grace, and salvation is proclaimed outside, the Holy Spirit teaches inside at the same time. Therefore Isaiah says (Is. 54:13): “All your sons shall be taught by the Lord.” And in Jeremiah we read: “I will give My laws.... And they shall all know Me” (cf. 31:33–34). Hence Christ refers to these two prophets when He says in John 6:45: “It is written in the prophets: ‘They shall all be taught by God.’ ” Likewise in 2 Cor. 3:3:³ “**You are a letter from Christ** delivered by us, written, not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” Thus we read in 1 John 2:27 that “His anointing will teach you all,” and in John 14:26: “But the **Counselor, the Holy Spirit ... will teach you all things.**”

Accordingly, this is how Scripture must be understood when it says that the laws are written **in the minds and in the hearts**. For by “**mind**” and “**heart**” (for this is how we are speaking now) it means intellect and feeling. For to be in **the mind** means to be understood; to be in the heart means to be loved. Thus to say that the Law is in the mouth means that it is taught; to say that it is in the ear means that it is heard; to say that it is in the eyes means that it is seen. Therefore it is not enough for the Law to be in the soul and to state objectively that it is there. No, it must be in the soul formally, that is, the Law must be **written in the heart out of love** for the Law.”