

Chapter Two

The Believer's Source of Joy

Being Likeminded

I. Introduction to Chapter Two

- A. Key verse: Philippians 4:4. Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.
- B. Joy! Where does it come from?
- C. We all have times of joy, but it is more just a happy feeling, instead of something that lasts
- D. How does a person get JOY?
- E. It comes by a way of thinking that is TOTALLY opposite than the natural way
- F. It is called, having the mind of Christ
- G. This chapter is all about that mind, and about the effects Jesus' way of thinking has on a person, on a church, and on the world!

II. Lesson – Be Likeminded - Philippians 2:1-5

- 1 ¶ If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,
- 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.
- 3 *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.
- 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.
- 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

A. The Big “Ifs” – self-check in the church

1. If *there be* (is) therefore any consolation in Christ – if you have been helped, and comforted
2. If there is any comfort of love – just to know that you are loved
3. If there is any fellowship of the Spirit – of His presence (do you ever sense His presence?). We are His temple
4. If there are any bowels and mercies – caring, attitudes of one another towards each other
5. The following four things are all the effects of getting born again (Gal 5:22,23)
6. All of that makes for a pretty awesome group of believers!
7. But joy still eludes too many believers
8. True, lasting, powerful, exhilarating joy comes from a way of thinking and believing

B. The Big Challenge – these are the BIG enemies of a church to Conquer!

1. To be like minded – be together – a unity in the church (1Cor 1:10; Eph 4:1-3)
 - a. Meaning:
 - 1) Same plans
 - 2) Same goals
 - 3) Same thoughts
 - b. How?
 - 1) Have the SAME love
 - a) Not having all the loves that are out there today
 - (a) Like loving the world (money, things, possessions, power, personal pride)
 - (b) Like loving people MORE than Jesus (Mt 10:37)
 - (c) Like only loving certain personalities (1Cor 1)
 - b) But the Love of God (Luke 10:27)
 - c) The Love of Jesus Christ (watch how leaving this love gets us into serious trouble)
 - d) The Love of the brethren
 - e) One person loves one doctrine, and another the opposite to it

- f) One person loves a teacher of the law, and another a preacher of the Gospel
 - g) One loves one Gospel minister, and one loves another, in distinction from, and opposition to the other
 - h) One loves the rich and not the poor
 - i) One person loves men of great gifts and grace, and neglects the meaner saints;
 - j) When any of this is the case, they cannot be said to have the same love, nor can there be harmony, concord, and agreement:
- 2) Be in ONE accord – one soul (Heb 13:3)
- a) Weep together
 - b) Rejoice together
 - c) CARE ABOUT WHAT EACH OTHER CARES ABOUT
 - d) Working together in complete harmony, not as separate entities going our separate ways
- 3) Have ONE mind – a command!
- a) Get rid of thoughts that cause you to fight one another (2Cor 10:3-5)
 - b) Get rid of thoughts that are against Christ
 - c) Take on the thoughts that we get from the Bible – let the Bible “straighten-out” not only the way we think, but WHAT we think
 - (a) Like about heaven and hell
 - (b) Like about ourselves
 - (c) Like about the world
 - (d) Etc
2. Avoiding Divisions
- a. No fights as Christians
 - 1) Not that we should all be “push-overs”
 - 2) But not brawlers, arguers, fighters – not trying to take control of other people through force and fighting
 - 3) We are not to attempt to do anything merely by outstripping others, or by showing that we have more talent, courage, or zeal. What we do is to be in obedience to God, by principle, and with a desire to maintain the truth, and to glorify God. And yet how often is this rule violated! How often do Christian denominations attempt to outstrip each other, and to see which shall be the greatest! How often do ministers preach with no better aim! How often do we attempt to outdo others in dress, and in the splendor of furniture and equipment! How often, even in plans of benevolence, and in the cause of virtue and religion, is the secret aim to outdo others. This is all wrong. There is no holiness in such efforts. Never once did the Redeemer act from such a motive, and never once should this motive be allowed to influence us.
 - 4) Take wrong, suffer wrong – this is hard
 - 5) There is a time to strive for the Gospel, earnestly contend for the faith
 - 6) But we had better do it right!
 - b. No thought of self’s glory and pride (see Gal 5:26)
 - 1) Not wanting to have the highest position or chair
 - 2) Not wanting to have the most praise
 - 3) All this did the Pharisees desire – as do all religious leaders!
 - c. Lowliness of mind – special words
 - 1) Not ultra humble, and deprecating
 - 2) But never thinking they can live without God
 - 3) Pride is thinking you can do things independent of prayer, of God’s wisdom, and of God’s strength
 - 4) Lowliness of mind means living totally dependant on the Spirit of God – just as Jesus did (“meek and lowly” of Matthew 11:27-29)
 - d. Esteeming each other better – cheerleading!

- 1) Our homes, our church is OUR TEAM!
 - 2) How are we around them? Putting them down, ignoring their praise?
 - 3) Use a lot of choice words to cheer, to encourage people. Words are so important! They can either build up or tear down, and we have to practice using the ones that will build up. It doesn't come easy to everyone, so we have to practice! Practice does make perfect! Whether it is in a classroom, your home, the workplace, and at church, a kind word works wonders!! We Need Encouragement in each stage of our life!!! Remember we are just works in process and that God is not finished with us yet! What will we do to help this process? Will we build up or tear down?
- e. Taking care of each other
- 1) Did you know, half of the Bible is about how to walk with God
 - 2) And the other half is learning how to walk with people!
 - 3) Don't be selfish, thinking only of your own "things"
 - 4) Take care of each other's problems and burdens
3. WOW! How could ANYONE do all that? By getting "the mind of Christ!" Next Week!
- C. The Mind of Christ – The Christian's Holy Grail!

III. Conclusion

- A. Some Self Examining we must do
1. Is there any consolation in Christ?
 2. Is there any comfort of love?
 3. Is there any fellowship of the Spirit?
 4. Is there any bowels and mercies?
 5. There certainly SHOULD be!
- B. If there is, then you can begin to tap into the Joy that Christ Jesus had!
1. But it demands that we be LIKEMINDED, and that we avoid divisions!
 2. That's a lot of work to do!
- C. Next week we will go right for the very source of Joy – not to a sunny beach, or a beautiful mountain scene, but to the very thoughts of Jesus Christ!
1. I know the thoughts that I have towards you

The Mind of Christ – Part 1

- 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;
 11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

I. Lesson – The Mind of Christ - Philippians 2:5-11**A. The Mind of the Christian** - We certainly all have a mind of our own, don't we?!

1. It is the way we think, the source of all our decisions and choices!
2. Is sometimes blind to the things of God – it was ruined!
 - a. It thought godliness was foolishness
 - 1) 2Co 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.
 - 2) 2Co 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
 - 3) 2Co 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
 - 4) Eph 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
 - 5) Tit 1:15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.
 - b. It can be made hungry though (Acts 17:11)
 - c. It needed help understanding (Acts 8)
 - d. It was reasoned with (Isaiah 1:18)
 - e. It was used to choose to be saved thank God – appealed to by preaching that calls for a response, a choice!
3. It leans towards sin (Rom 7:16-25)
 - a. The law is a fixed rule or control over my life
 - b. Sin rules my old nature
 - c. God rules my new nature
 - d. I have to choose the law of God over the law of sin and death
4. It has to be constantly renewed – made right towards God
 - a. Mar 5:15 And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.
 - b. Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
 - c. Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
 - d. 2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
 - e. Tit 2:6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.
 - f. Eph 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

- g. Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

B. A Christian has Two Minds Now:

1. **Fleshly Mind – loves the flesh, and is influenced by the flesh**
2. **A Spiritual Mind – regenerated, and loves God, and influenced by the Holy Spirit**
3. **The soul part of the mind makes the choice between the two influences!**
 - a. Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
 - b. Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.
 - c. Jas 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.
 - d. Jas 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

C. We ALL Need The Mind of Christ – What is it? (Philippians 2:2-8)

1. We don't have access to all the mind of God Almighty
2. But we do have the mind of Christ offered to us (1Cor 2:16)
3. What kind of mind did He have?
 - a. Humility of mind (Acts 20:19; Col 3:12)
 - b. Same mind as God His Father
 - c. Lowly of mind
 - d. Thought more of us than Himself
 - e. No reputation
 - f. A servant's mind
 - g. An obedient mind
 - h. A faithful mind – to the end
4. That is the right kind of mind to have – the right way to think about things!

II. Conclusion

- A. If you want to stay the way you are, just keep letting your mind think the way it always has
- B. But if you want JOY, and a new mind, and a RIGHT mind, then you are going to have to allow some serious upsets change the way you see God and your own life:
- C. **The Mind of the Christian (Philippians 2:5-8)**
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 2. Is sometimes blind to the things of God – it was ruined!
 3. Leans towards sin (Rom 7:16-25)
 4. Has to be constantly renewed – made right towards God
- D. **A Christian has two minds now:**
 1. **Fleshly Mind**
 2. **A Spiritual Mind**
 3. **You choose every minute which one to yield to!**
- E. **We All Need The Mind of Christ - What kind of mind did He have?**
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The Mind of Christ – Part 2

- 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
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 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;
 11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

I. Review – The Mind of Christ Part 1 - Philippians 2:5-8

A. The Mind of the Christian - We certainly all have a mind of our own, don't we?!

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2. Is sometimes blind to the things of God – it was ruined!
3. It leans towards sin (Rom 7:16-25)
4. It has to be constantly renewed – made right towards God

B. A Christian has Two Minds Now:

1. **Fleshly Mind – loves the flesh, and is influenced by the flesh**
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 - f. A servant's mind
 - g. An obedient mind
 - h. A faithful mind – to the end
4. That is the right kind of mind to have – the right way to think about things!

II. Lesson - The Mind of Christ Part 2 - Philippians 2:5-11

A. We ALL Need to be of ONE Mind – unified by having the mind of Christ.

1. What are Christ's Thoughts?
 - a. They are not like ANY thoughts we have ever had before (Isaiah 55:8,9)
 - b. They are deep and rich and full – not wasted
 - 1) Psalm 40:5
 - 2) Psalm 92:5
 - 3) Psalm 139:17,18
 - c. They are good thoughts (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - d. They are right thoughts – they see righteousness being accomplished
2. What Kind of Mind is Christ's?
 - a. A Spiritual Mind (1Cor 2:14-16)

- 1) It comes from the mind of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:26,27)
 - 2) It is aware of spiritual things
 - 3) It is in constant communication with His Father
 - 4) It discerns things spiritually, not physically, or even emotionally
- b. A Disciplined and Free Mind (Rom 8:2)
- 1) Not constantly battling with sinful thoughts
 - 2) But constantly exploring truth and purity and right thoughts (Philp 4:8)
 - 3) Thinking all thoughts, but in view of truth
 - a) Not exploring frivolous thoughts
 - b) Not wasting time focusing on self-worship and value
- c. A Teachable Mind (1Cor 2:9-12; Heb 5:8)
- d. A Transparent Mind (Prov 23:7; John 15:15) – No hidden thoughts, ulterior motives
- e. A Transformed Mind – transformed to be like Christs (Rom 12:2)
- f. A Worshipful Mind – one that glorifies God (John 16:14)
- g. Whose mind do you use...yours or Christ's?
- 1) There is quite a difference in the two.
 - a) Our mind is limited, but God's mind is unlimited (Ps. 147:5 “Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite.”).
 - b) God wants us to use His wisdom and His knowledge because it is so vast.
 - c) We need to rely on the mind of Christ, which Paul says we have.
 - 2) We cannot depend on our natural senses to understand what God wants us to do. We shouldn't rely on what we see, hear, or think. We need to walk by faith, not by sight. We need to be led by the Spirit at all times. “The Spirit of God searches all things, even the deep things of God.”
 - 3) God will show us great and mighty things that we do not know (Jer. 33:3 “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”).
 - 4) The Holy Spirit knows the very thoughts of God. The Spirit is like a phone line from Heaven that connects us to God. All we have to do is listen. Jesus made this powerful line of communication with heaven possible when He sent us the Holy Spirit.
 - 5) We have “the mind of Christ” because we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.
 - a) The Holy Spirit teaches us all things, even the deep things of God.
 - b) God will reveal Himself to us in mighty ways.
 - c) Let us be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's voice. We will be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit and we will have access to the unlimited, all-knowing, eternal mind of Christ.

MAY THE MIND OF CHRIST MY SAVIOR

Kate Wilkinson, 1925

May the mind of Christ my Sav-ior Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power con-trol-ling All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell rich-ly In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I tri-umph On-ly through His power.

May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in ev-ery-thing,
That I may be calm to com-fort Sick and sor-row-ing.

May the love of Je-sus fill me As the wa-ters fill the sea;
Him ex-alt-ing, self a-bas-ing, This is vic-to-ry.

May His beau-ty rest up-on me As I seek the lost to win,
And may they for-get the chan-nel, See-ing on-ly Him.

The Mind of Christ – Part 3

- 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;
 11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

I. Lesson - The Mind of Christ Part 3 - Philippians 2:5-11

A. **We must not only have right minds, but the same mind.** Have One Mind, Like an army, well trained, focused on our enemy, obedient to our Commander, not just “hanging out together”

1. Rom 12:16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.
2. Rom 15:6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. 1Co 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.
4. 2Co 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.
5. Php 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;
6. Php 4:2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.
7. 1Pe 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

B. **How to Get the Right Mind** (Philippians 2:5-11)

1. Humiliation - Watch the steps of our Lord's humiliation (Philippians 2:5-7)
 - a. Abandonment – allowing yourself to lose yourself (Mt 10:39)
 - 1) From deity, to poverty
 - 2) From heaven to dirt
 - 3) From all praise to public rejection
 - 4) From miraculous works, to bruised and torn flesh
 - 5) From heaven's glory, all the way down to servanthood, and then to rejection, and then to torture, and then to death – even the death of the cross!
 - b. The humiliation of Jesus Christ is seen in...
 - 1) His birth (Gal. 4:4; Luke 2:7; John 1:46; Hebrews 2:9)
 - 2) His purpose (He came to Earth to be a sacrificial lamb to pay for our sins.) (John 1:29)
 - 3) His circumstances throughout his life
 - 4) His reputation—the way people perceived him (Isa. 53; Matt. 26:59, 67; Ps. 22:6; Matt. 26:68)
 - 5) His soul (Ps. 22:1; Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 22:44; Hebrews 2:17,18; 4:15)
 - 6) His death (Luke 23; John 19; Mark 15:24,25)
 - 7) His burial in a borrowed tomb (Isa. 53:9; Matt. 27:57,58,60)
 - 8) His dwelling in a human heart (Eph 3:17)
 - c. CHRIST EMPTIED HIMSELF (v. 7a)
 - 1) "Made Himself of no reputation."

- 2) What did Christ empty Himself of?
 - a) He Remained God
 - (i) Christ did not empty Himself of His deity. He is co-existent with the Father and the Spirit, and for Him to have become less than God would have meant the Trinity would have ceased to exist. Christ could not become less than who He truly is.
 - (ii) Christ didn't exchange deity for humanity. Only God can die and conquer death, create, do miracles, and speak as Christ did. Christ retained His divine nature.
 - b) He Renounced His Privileges
 - (i) Heavenly glory
 - (a) However our Lord did give up His heavenly glory. As C.S. Lewis put it, He dove into the water and went all the way down through the black cold water to the slime and ooze of this world. That's why in John 17:5 Jesus prayed, "Glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was." Christ gave up the glory of a face-to-face relationship with God for the muck of this earth. He gave up the adoring presence of angels for the spittle of men. He gave up the shining brilliance of heavens glories and emptied Himself.
 - (b) Every now and then on earth the glory of Christ peaked through, such as on the Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36). There were glimpses of Christ's glory in His miracles, attitude, words, at the cross, at His resurrection, and at His ascension. But Christ emptied Himself of the continuous outward manifestation and personal enjoyment of heavenly glory.
 - (ii) Independent authority
 - (a) Christ emptied Himself of His independent authority. He completely submitted Himself to the will of the Father and learned to be a servant. Philippians 2:8 says He was obedient, and we see that illustrated when He said in the garden, "Not as I will, but as Thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39). "He learned obedience from the things which He suffered" (Heb. 5:8), and affirmed that He came to do His Father's will (John 5:30)--not His own.
 - (iii) Divine prerogatives
 - (a) He set aside the prerogatives of His deity--the voluntary use of His attributes. He did not stop being omniscient or omnipresent. He remained omniscient--He knew what was in man (John 2:25). He was omnipresent--though not physically present, He saw Nathaniel under a tree (John 1:45-49). He didn't give up any of His deity but He did give up the free exercise of His attributes, limiting Himself to the point of saying that He did not know the time of His second coming (Matt. 24:36).
 - (iv) Eternal riches
 - (a) He gave up His personal riches. "Though He was rich, yet for [our] sake He became poor, that [we] through His poverty might become rich (2 Cor. 8:9). Christ was poor in this world; He owned very little.
 - (v) A favorable relationship
 - (a) God "made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf" (2 Cor. 5:21). As a result our Lord cried out on the cross, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"
 - 3) Though Christ renounced all those privileges, He never ceased to be God. At any moment He could have blasted His enemies off the face of the earth, but He didn't. He voluntarily emptied Himself.
- d. Every humiliating event in your life is intended to develop a right mind in you – the mind of Christ

- 1) So let people rebuke you (Eccl 7:5) – you serve the Lord Christ!
 - 2) Let lesser people instruct you – learn from ants, locusts, rabbits, and children
 - 3) Keep yourself humble when rebuked and chastened by God (Heb 12:5)
 - 4) Let troubles be your teachers
 - 5) It changes your mind!
2. Submission - Became A Servant (v. 7b)
- a. Christ took and took upon him the form of a servant
 - b. As God Christ owns everything. But when He came into this world He borrowed everything: a place to be born, a place to lay His head (many nights He slept on the Mount of Olives), a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee and to preach from, an animal to ride into the city when He was being triumphantly welcomed as King of kings and Lord of lords, a room for the Passover, and a tomb to be buried in. The only person who ever lived on this earth who had the right to everything on it wound up with nothing, and became a servant. Though King of kings, and Lord of lords, the rightful heir to David's throne, and God in human flesh, He had no advantages or privileges in this world. He was given little, but served everyone. That was the incredible destiny of whom it is written, "All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being" (John 1:3).
3. Identification – With People
- a. CHRIST IDENTIFIED WITH SINNERS (v. 7c)
 - 1) The descent of Christ continues as we move through verse 7. He was given all the essential attributes of humanity.
 - a) He was more than God in a body.
 - b) He became the God-man, being fully God and fully man. Like a man, Jesus was born and increased in wisdom and physical maturity (Luke 2:52).
 - 2) Galatians 4:4--"God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law."
 - 3) Christ had the same flesh and blood that we have (Hebrews 2:14). When He came into the world He came in normal human flesh that felt all the effects of the Fall. He knew sorrow, suffering, pain, thirst, hunger, and death. He felt all effects of the Fall without ever knowing or experiencing the sin of the Fall.
 - 4) Hebrews 2:17--Jesus "had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest." For Christ to feel what we feel, He needed to be made like us. He experienced all the tests and temptations we do, but never gave in to sin. That's why He's such a faithful and understanding high priest.
 - 5) Hebrews 4:15--"We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."
 - 6) He could talk with, hold, touch, and help sinners
 - a) Not by being a sinner Himself
 - b) But being a man, tempted like as we are (Heb 4:15)
 - b. CHRIST LOOKED LIKE PEOPLE - A MAN (v. 8a) not like a "god"
 - 1) It's funny how every "star" wants to look like a god, or a goddess!
 - 2) God wanted to look like people!
 - 3) For Christ to become man was humbling enough.
 - 4) For Him not to be recognized must have been more humiliating (John 1:10-11). He performed miracles and taught authoritatively, yet there were typical responses: "You are a Samaritan and have a demon" (John 8:48) and "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down out of heaven?'" (John 6:42) (because their minds were darkened by sin people recognized His humanity but missed His deity). They couldn't recognize who He really was. They not only treated the King of kings like a man, but the worst of men—as a criminal.
4. Dedication – to go all the way (2:8)
- a. CHRIST WAS OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH (v. 8c)
 - b. At no time did our Lord say, "Stop--that's enough": not in the middle of His trial, not when He was mocked, not when forced to walk half naked through the city of Jerusalem with a cross on

His back, and not even on the cross. Christ was obedient to the point of descending all the way down through the muck and slime of death that He might bring us out of death into the glory of life.

- c. CHRIST DIED ON A CROSS (v. 8d) How far would YOU be willing to go?
 - d. "Even" calls attention to the most shocking feature of Christ's humiliation.
 - e. Christ suffered not just death, but death on a cross--the most excruciating, embarrassing, degrading, painful, and cruel death ever devised.
 - f. Crucifixion came originally from the Persians and was adopted by the Romans. It was used to execute rebellious slaves and the worst of criminals only.
 - g. The Jewish people hated it because of Deuteronomy 21:23: "Anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse".
 - h. Galatians 3:13 says, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us--for it is written, 'Cursed is every one who hangs on a tree.'"
 - i. The God who created the universe suffered the ultimate human degradation--hanging naked in the sky before a mocking world with nails driven through His hands and feet.
 - j. How far will you allow God to take you to have the mind of Christ? (See Luke 9:23)
5. We Must Hunger – for the word of God – Training our thoughts to learn right thoughts (Isaiah 55:7)
 - a. The Lord Jesus loved the word of God (Matt 4:4)
 - b. The Bible is the only thing that can transform our minds, and change the way we think
 - c. No amount of praying, laying on of hands, pills, pleasure, sunshine, etc can change you like the words of Almighty God!
 - d. Learn this Book, from cover to cover – quit wanting to be spoon fed, and HUNGER to learn it for yourself
 - e. Must be obedient to all the Scriptures – they are not something that we want because they are easy to follow, but vital, no matter the cost!
 - f. The Bible will mean nothing to you until you start obeying it!
 6. We Must Hang On – patient, faithful perseverance - Philp 2:9-11 tells of Christ's exaltation.
 - a. From His silent Resurrection
 - b. His Empty tomb
 - c. Alive for evermore
 - d. Ascension back into heaven
 - e. Raised up to the right hand of God's majesty
 - f. His name now reigns – no greater name than that of Jesus! Greater than Alexander, Stalin, Eamon DeValera, Augustine, Plato, Socrates, Descartes, Charles Darwin, Stephen Hawkins, Albert Einstein, Amelia Earhart , Peter, Moses, Daniel, Adam, Bono, Nero, Mozart, Beethoven, and certainly greater than Bart Simpson!

The Fruit of a Right Mind

I. Introduction (2Tim 1:7)

- A. God gave us sound minds at salvation
- B. God gave us a new mind in our spirit – the mind of Christ
- C. But our minds struggle with old habits, and strongholds and worries, and wicked imaginations
- D. So He Brings us LOW, to learn His way of thinking
- E. Learning to use THAT mind (instead of our fleshly, carnal mind) takes time and effort
 - 1. A Spiritual Mind (1Cor 2:14-16)
 - 2. A Disciplined and Free Mind (Rom 8:2)
 - 3. A Teachable Mind (1Cor 2:9-12; Heb 5:8)
 - 4. A Transparent Mind (Prov 23:7; John 15:15) – No hidden thoughts, ulterior motives
 - 5. A Transformed Mind – transformed to be like Christ's (Rom 12:2)
 - 6. A Worshipful Mind – one that glorifies God (John 16:14)
- F. All of that takes effort, and costs you your earthly honour sometimes, but it is worth it!
- G. It actually helps you worship God acceptably

II. Lesson - The Fruit of a Right Mind – Worship (Philp 2:9-11)

- A. Remember all the effort that went into Christ's humiliation? Christ being our example. Well, it pays off!
- B. The Exaltation of Jesus Christ
 - 1. Highly exalted – our conversation is in heaven (Philp 3:20), not things on earth!
 - a. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him – not just praised Him, but lifted Him up higher than anyone ever before or after!
 - b. Notice that the humiliation comes before the exaltation! We, however want the exaltation before the humiliation (Matt 23:12, Heb 12:2).
 - c. Resurrection
 - d. Ascension
 - e. On God's Throne!
 - f. Worship, Not Worry! Not anxiety, confusion, fear, depression, frustration, doubt, or bitterness!
 - 2. Given him a Name which is above every name
 - a. There is no other name that rivals that of Jesus. Not Buddha, not Mohammed, not Joseph Smith, not whatever Pope is in power. No one.
 - b. Names mean something
 - c. Millions of names in the world
 - d. Only ONE name is above all other names... Jesus (Acts 4:12)
 - e. Not Allah, not Jehovah only, not Madonna, not Elvis...
 - f. Equal with Jehovah – no angel is ever worshipped, no one else but God! Jesus is GOD!
 - 3. Every knee should bow – ultimate worship!
 - a. Some knees bow to Buddha and Mohammed.
 - b. Many knees bow to Mary or the Pope.
 - c. Yet at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow.
 - d. The knees of Kings and those of beggars. The knees of the Hollywood Elite and those of middleclass Europe. The knees of Celebrities that are known by all, and the knees of those of some remote African tribe. The knees of those that have rejected the word of God, and the knees of those that have embraced Him.
 - e. Every knee includes your knees and mine.
 - f. To bow is to worship, yield, surrender
 - 1) In awe, amazement, quietness, in honour of the one you are honouring
 - 2) No pride, no accomplishment
 - 3) Just all honour, glory and praise going to the one in front of you!

4. Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Romans 10:9-10)
 - a. Not just a mental agreement, but a verbal confession – public expression
 - b. What if Christians honoured the Lord Jesus AS LORD by their lives visibly, and by their tongues, audibly?
 - c. We confessed Jesus as Lord for salvation, didn't we?
 - d. If we fail to do this though, in the next life our tongues will confess Him as Lord irregardless, even though we are damned.
 5. Truly, whether people will admit it or not, Jesus is Lord! He is the ONLY PERSON WORTHY of bowing and yielding to! And one day, all will admit it!
- C. The Exaltation of the Christian (1Peter 5:6)
1. Judges of Angels (1Corinthians 6:1-3)
 2. Kings and Priests (Rev 1:6)
 3. Ruling and reigning with Christ in the Millennium (Rev 5:10)
 4. But only if you have humbled yourself, and only if you have suffered anything for Christ (Rom 8:16,17) – your humiliation MUST precede any exaltation

III. Conclusion

- A. If you want to stay the way you are, just keep letting your mind think the way it always has
- B. But if you want JOY, and a new mind, and a RIGHT mind, then you are going to have to allow some serious upsets change the way you see God and your own life:
- C. **The Fruit of a Right Mind – Worship** (Philp 2:9-11) NOT worry, anxiety, confusion, fear, depression, frustration, doubt, or bitterness!

Working Out Our Salvation – Part 1

- 12 ¶ Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
- 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.
- 14 ¶ Do all things without murmurings and disputings:
- 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
- 16 Holding forth the word of life;

I. Introduction

- A. The Lord desires His people to live out what God has worked within
- B. Most people have nothing inside to show – they are empty
- C. The context makes it clear that Paul is teaching about sanctification and not about justification.
 - 1. He exhorts the believers to be united together, humbly serving one another (2:1-11) as Jesus did,
 - 2. And living blameless and innocent lives in the midst of an evil world (2:14,15).
 - 3. He is not telling them how to become right with God, but how to live righteously and thus fulfil God's purpose for them.
- D. God didn't just save us FROM hell, but save us TO live the best life!
 - 1. Salvation from hell's judgment is justification
 - 2. Salvation to heaven is sanctification
 - a) We live like we are on our way to heaven.
 - b) Sanctification is the process of spiritual maturity whereby we are progressively conformed to the image of Christ. It culminates in glorification— when we receive our spiritual bodies and are brought into the actual presence of God.
 - c) If you are Christian, God desires that, over time, every area of our lives becomes transformed.
- E. So, in simple words, the Lord desires His people to live out what God has already worked within that life when that person trusted Christ as Lord and Saviour.

II. Lesson

- A. **A Willing Obedience** (Philp 2:12) - The Good Life is the Natural Result of Obedience
 - 1. Obeyed to get saved (Rom 6:17)
 - 2. Surely we ought to obey God rather than only man (Acts 5:29)
 - 3. The power of the Holy Spirit is available only to those who obey God (Acts 5:32)
 - 4. So, obey in all things, and at all times
 - a) Obey the written word
 - b) Obey your authorities
 - c) Obey the Holy Spirit
 - d) Over-riding the flesh, and the world
 - 5. That's when you will live the good life, free, and full (Psalm 119:45)
- B. **A Christian Work Out** (Philp 2:12,13)!
 - 1. A Christian MUST Work Out What God Put In – A constant flow (John 3:27; 2Cor 3:5)
 - 2. What it doesn't say
 - a) Work on my salvation – work on it until I am saved
 - b) Work out a salvation – as if come up with a way to be saved
 - c) God reminds me that His salvation is not of works (Ephesians 2:8,9) so it can't be talking about doing good works to BECOME saved

3. What it IS saying
 - a) What things God has WORKED INTO you, you need to work their way out
 - b) In other words, LIVE what God has taught you to believe!
 - c) It is a constant flow – God is constantly putting things in you that He expects to flow right out
4. What Did God Put in You?
 - a) Salvation (John 1:11,12) – HIMSELF! Eternal life!
 - 1) God worked it in – you didn't
 - 2) It is the greatest power in your life, so work its way out your smile, your words, your actions, your eyes, your plans, and even your dying
 - 3) So, live it out in every area of your life – not in just a religious act
 - a) Financial
 - b) Emotional
 - c) Work ethic
 - d) Home Life
 - e) Private life
 - f) Soul-winning
 - b) His Will – His design (Rom 12:1,2)
 - 1) God's will is not your will
 - 2) It is usually impossible to do
 - 3) It is for others, not really for yourself
 - 4) It is awesome – not boring
 - c) His Pleasure (Rev 4:11; Heb 13:21)
 - 1) The things we do should please God
 - 2) A Christian has good works put into them – they just need to get them OUT into their life (Eph 2:10)
 - d) His Peace – that passes all understanding
 - e) His Truth (Jer 31:33)
 - 1) He is the great teacher
 - 2) The word of God is intended not to be engraved on stone, but engraved into your heart and mind and life
 - f) His Holy Spirit
 - g) The very Mind of Christ (Philp 2:5)
 - 1) Seek the guidance of God's Spirit
 - 2) Maturity as a Christian
 - 3) Stability (2Peter 1:5)
 - h) I think the list goes ON and ON!
5. The command is to GET IT ON THE OUTSIDE OF YOU!

Working Out Our Salvation – Part 2

- 12 ¶ Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
- 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.
- 14 ¶ Do all things without murmurings and disputings:
- 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
- 16 Holding forth the word of life;

I. Introduction

II. Review - A Christian Work Out (Philp 2:12,13)!

- A. A Christian MUST Work Out What God Put In – A constant flow (John 3:27; 2Cor 3:5)
- B. What it doesn't say
1. Work on my salvation – work on it until I am saved
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- C. What it IS saying
1. What things God has WORKED INTO you, you need to work their way out
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- D. What Did God Put in You?
1. Salvation (John 1:11,12) – HIMSELF! Eternal life! God worked it in – you didn't
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 4. His Peace – that passes all understanding
 5. His Truth (Jer 31:33)
 6. His Holy Spirit
 7. The very Mind of Christ (Philp 2:5)
 8. I think the list goes ON and ON!
- E. The command is to GET IT ON THE OUTSIDE OF YOU!

III. Lesson

- A. **A Christian's Fear and Trembling** (Philp 2:12; 1Cor 2:3; Eph 6:5; 1Pet 3:2; Heb 4:1). Our attitude towards God
1. Fear Towards God only. You MUST fear God! You can know Him, trust Him, love Him, and walk with Him, but it is in the context of FEARING HIM as God! He is not just some "buddy" that understand, and lets things "slide"!
 2. Christians need a good fear about
 - a) Falling Short of God's expectations – where He guides, He provides
 - b) Coming short of His will
 - c) Doing things my old way instead of His way and in His power – any other way than God's way is SIN (James 4:17)
 - d) Letting people down
 3. Many people fear and tremble over what is going to happen to their retirements.
 4. They fear and tremble if they are going to lose their jobs.
 5. They fear and tremble over important things in this world,
 6. But in comparison to God, His imminent judgment, and their eternal destination, such things pale.

B. A Christian's Good Testimony (Philp 2:14-16) – Our Attitude and Life Towards Man

1. A Good Testimony is Christ's desire for us (Mt 5:14-16)
2. A Good Testimony is a characteristic of all Christians (Philp 1:27)
3. People Need to See Us Doing God's Will – and they see it in two areas of our life:
 - a) In Our Attitudes
 - 1) Nobody likes to be around people who are always grumbling and arguing.
 - 2) Sad to say but still so- There are a lot of people going to hell because of people who are going to heaven.
 - b) In Our Actions
 - 1) Arguing
 - 2) Actions that can be blamed on us as sins
 - 3) Harming other people
 - 4) Acting like children of God an not children of the devil
 - 5) Holding forth the word of life
4. Attitude - Without Murmurings (Ex 16:8; Psalm 106:25; 1Cor 10:10,11; James 5:9; Jude 1:16)
 - a) Complaining under your breath
 - b) God judged and killed people for constantly complaining
 - c) It is the doubt of God that infects others away from God
 - d) It is the expression of blame against God – making your problems God's fault – thinking you know better than God about how things should be going
 - 1) Thought God was foolishly leading them
 - 2) Thought God was too slow in delivering them from Egypt
 - 3) Thought God had sent failed leadership in Moses and Aaron
 - 4) Thought God couldn't supply their needs in the desert – only at Tesco!
 - e) How to conquer murmurings
 - 1) Fear God's response to it
 - 2) Replace them with praises
 - 3) Resist the urge to think you know better than God
5. Actions
 - a) Without Disputing (Prov 13:10; Mark 9:34; Rom 14:1; 16:17; 1Cor 1:10-12; Gal 5:15)
 - 1) Arguing
 - 2) Strife
 - 3) Debates with no desire to learn
 - 4) How to conquer arguing
 - a) First, LISTEN more (Prov 17:28; James 1:19)
 - b) Speak without judging the other person's ideas
 - c) Wrestle ideas, not people – it is good to debate, and discuss, especially eternal things
 - d) Don't take yourself too seriously – there may be a time to stand up to heresy, but we attack each other over the smallest of matters!
 - b) Be Blameless
 - 1) Just a bad attitude can ruin your testimony
 - 2) Christians can have bad days, but not bad attitudes
 - 3) No blaming of God
 - 4) Bad attitudes will be a trap to get you into worse sins

- a) Many a Christian has gone ahead and sinned worse simply because they have been caught in sin, when they should have fled from the sin
 - b) Blameless is when you do wrong, and then take responsibility for making things right again, so that no one can “point the finger at you” and say you are to blame anymore
- c) Be Harmless (Matthew 10:16)
- 1) As Jesus is
 - 2) Very trustworthy
 - 3) Maybe loud, firm, passionate, but always harmless
 - 4) John the Baptist never harmed anyone, but scared the devil out of everybody!
 - 5) Cults use their powers to scare people, and they actually hurt, and abuse, and even kill people
 - a) That’s why people fear cults – because they DO actually hurt people
 - b) Drinking cyanide
 - c) Mass suicides
 - d) Ritual sacrifices of cats, dogs, and even people
- d) Be A Child of God in Your Life
- 1) Live as children of light (Eph 5:8; 1Thes 5:5), not children of darkness anymore
 - 2) Be like our Father (Luke 6:35) in the way we act, in the way we react, in the way we are patient, and merciful
- e) Hold forth the Word of Life (Acts 13:26)
- 1) Some people hand out food and clothing
 - 2) We give out the Gospel
 - 3) Biblical Teaching is the greatest “product” that we offer the world
 - 4) Give Bibles away at Christmas, and Gospel singing tapes, and New testaments, and the Bible on Cassette and CDs
 - 5) Promote the word of God in all that we do!

IV. Conclusion

- A. The Lord desires His people to live out what God has worked within
 - B. Most people have nothing inside to show – they are empty
 - C. God didn’t just save us FROM hell, but save us TO live the good life!
 - D. So, in simple words, the Lord desires His people to live out what God has already worked within that life when that person trusted Christ as Lord and Saviour.
- 1. **A Willing Obedience** (Philp 2:12) - The Good Life is the Natural Result of Obedience
 - 2. **A Christian Work Out** (Philp 2:12,13)!
 - 3. **A Christian’s Fear and Trembling** (Philp 2:12; 1Cor 2:3; Eph 6:5; 1Pet 3:2; Heb 4:1)
 - 4. **A Christian’s Good Testimony** (Philp 2:14-16). In your attitudes, and in your actions!

A Pastor's Heart

Philippians 2:16-30

I. Introduction (Ephesians 4:11,12)

- A. Just what IS a Pastor?
 - 1. He is the shepherd over a flock (Acts 20:28)
 - 2. An example to the flock (1Peter 5:2,3)
 - 3. A leader, and guide with a vision and goals for the flock – this is not pure democracy where we all just sit around and decide what to do – no! We all seek to do the Lord's will, and the pastor gets a vision, and the people get it from him!
- B. What goes on inside the heart of a pastor?
 - 1. Is this just a job to him? Just getting a paycheck, and two weeks off a year holidays
 - 2. Or are there heart-burdens and cares in the ministry that few will ever know?
- C. Paul is still sitting in the Mamertine prison in Rome, and still writing a letter from his heart to some very special and precious people to him – people that he had won to Christ, and taught the Scriptures to, and firmly established so that they would continue and reach their generation around them in Northern Greece
- D. He moves from some very practical instructions on Christian attitudes to talking from his heart.
- E. Let's take a look at five things going on in Paul's heart in that prison and let's see if it will encourage our own hearts

II. Lesson (Philp 2:16-30)!

- A. **A Pastor's Heart Is for His Flock to Be Like the Shepherd (2:1-16; Luke 6:40)**
 - 1. The previous verses described the life of Jesus, and how we should be *just like Him*
 - 2. In mind, action, attitude
 - a) What kind of a mind? Humbleness of mind
 - b) What kind of action? Thinking of others' needs over our own
 - c) What kind of attitudes? No murmurings, arguings AT ALL!
 - 3. The greatest thing we can be is not really "ourselves", but like Jesus (Luke 6:40)
 - 4. How do we change into His likeness here on earth?
 - a) By obedience to God's word – step by step we change as we obey
 - b) By yielding to the work of the Holy Spirit – He does the "finish work"
 - c) By surprise – it doesn't come naturally, or expectantly
- B. **A Pastor's Heart Is for His Church to Shine (2:15,16a)**
 - 1. Not hide, blend, get on with, or compromise with this world
 - 2. We worry about what everyone thinks, yet Christ calls us to go ahead and be different
 - 3. Shine as lights
 - a) In home life – we should set the pace for what a family can experience
 - b) At work
 - c) At the markets, malls – Christians MUST start being willing to stand out
 - 4. A church that just hides, and blends with the "background" is a shame
 - 5. We HAVE to take our place as Christ's body in the world that affects the world for good
 - a) Bible Clubs
 - b) Reformer's Unanimous
 - c) Soul-winning
 - d) Preaching on the street
 - e) Bible Institute, Bible Colleges
 - f) Christian Schools
 - g) Hospitals
 - h) Christians involved in local and national government

6. Evangelize, or fossilize

C. A Pastor's Heart Wants to Rejoice at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2:16,17)

1. At the Judgment Seat, all a pastor's efforts will be reviewed – what a thought (Heb 13:17)

2. The Worries of a Pastor (2Cor 11:1-3)

- a) He worries that he has run in vain and laboured in vain – with nothing to show at the end of his race!
- b) Not worried for his own salvation, or about his preaching ability, or beliefs
- c) But worries about his flock

- 1) THEIR beliefs (Gal 1:6)
- 2) THEIR salvation
- 3) THEIR walk with God
- 4) THEIR prayer time
- 5) THEIR debts and financial bondage
- 6) THEIR ability to get along (2Cor 12:20)

d) Every true pastor worries about how easily the devil can come and discouraged and divert the growth of believers

- 1) 30% of all Mormons come from newly saved, but undisciplined believers
- 2) Cults LOVE weak Christians who don't know their Bible
- 3) Over half of all Pentecostals in charismatic churches came from Baptist Churches

e) The devil corrupts what God purifies

f) A Pastor seeks to warn, work on and mature sinners for Christ's glory

3. The Sacrifices of a Pastor

a) The Physical costs are staggering

- 1) Time spent being trained
- 2) Time spent evangelising
- 3) Time and effort spent discipling
- 4) Time and effort spent preparing to preach – 8 hours for 1 hour message
- 5) Trying to be there for everyone who needs him

b) The emotional costs are staggering

- 1) Misunderstood
- 2) Maligned
- 3) Hated
- 4) Blamed
- 5) Unthanked

c) The monetary costs are staggering

- 1) Computers
- 2) Printing
- 3) Free Bibles
- 4) Advertising

d) All because, the spiritual costs are staggering

- 1) Souls hang in the balance
- 2) The devil spends all the money he can, all the time he can on damning and darkening the minds of this world
- 3) The spiritual costs to your children and to our community are staggering if we don't succeed

4. And a pastor doesn't mind it at all – just like a parent doesn't mind (2Cor 12:15)!!!

D. A Pastor's Heart Is Part of a Team (2:18-29)

1. Paul was rarely alone - Even in prison, he was teamed up with two key people

- a) Timothy – someone who STAYS with the pastor, by his side, doing what needed to be done
 - b) Epaphroditus – someone who would come and go and minister wherever needed
2. Let's look at these two men
- a) Timothy
 - 1) He naturally cared about baby churches. This was a very rare trait, even among pastors
 - 2) Most only care about what they can GET out of serving the Lord: pay, car, office, time off
 - 3) He was a proven man – track record
 - 4) A son, working under or along side his father – well trained because close to his teacher (2Tim 2:2)
 - 5) Paul NEEDED Timothy; relied on him just being there with him (2Tim 1:4; 4:9; 4:13; 4:21)
 - 6) Folks, I need Timothys too – elders in this church, faithful men
 - b) Epaphroditus
 - 1) He was from Philippi, and was a member of the church there.
 - 2) He had been employed by the Philippian Christians to carry relief to Paul when he was in Rome (Phi 4:18), and while in Rome he became very ill.
 - 3) News of this had reached to Philippi, they had heard of his sickness and that they were very worried about him.
 - 4) When he was better, Paul thought it best that he should return to Philippi, and sent this Epistle with him.
 - 5) He is much commended by Paul for his faithfulness and zeal.
 - 6) Listen to his words of praise
 - a) Brother – not just another person, but FAMILY
 - b) Companion in labour – worked tirelessly – the ministry is WORK
 - c) Fellowsoldier – in the fight against darkness and sin, and for souls!
 - d) Postman from Philippi – delivering words of encouragement and help
 - e) A ministering servant to Paul
 - 7) Sometimes we get sick – like Trophimas did (2Tim 4:20)
 - 8) Sometimes God is kind and heals us – not an apostolic healing, but God's help!
 - 9) Hey! People like Epaphroditus are:
 - a) Missionary encouragers
 - b) People who take time off to go and help a church planter
 - 10) Honour them! Hold them in high reputation! Even though they may not be called to be a pastor!
3. Are YOU part of the Pastor's Team? You are so needed if you are willing to serve!
4. How to join the Pastor's Team:
- a) Ask God if he wants you to get involved in a ministry (I believe he will shout from heaven... YES!)
 - b) Don't TELL the pastor what you want to do
 - c) Work with the pastor
 - d) Have patience and let God develop you – you could be very good at something, but not very patient, or very spiritual
 - e) Love your pastor, most of all

E. A Pastor's Heart Is Christ's Heart (2:30)

- 1. Our ministry, the things we do are what Christ did
- 2. The entire effort is called, the work of the Gospel
- 3. Our church, and all Bible believing churches work as if Jesus Christ were doing things
- 4. We are the BODY of Jesus Christ (1Cor 12). The physical representative of what Jesus would be doing if HE were here, in your home, on your job, in your school desk!!!
- 5. Areas where Jesus should FREELY work
 - a) In your home
 - b) In our church – no one hindering Him

- c) On your job
 - d) Everywhere you are, work the work of Christ, not yourself anymore!
6. Is there ANY area of your life that Jesus should not be working IN and THROUGH? Didn't think so!

III. Conclusion

- A. Just what IS a Pastor?
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 - 2. A pastor has Worries (2Cor 11:1-3)
 - 3. A pastor makes many Sacrifices
 - 4. but a pastor doesn't mind it at all!!!
- F. **A Pastor's Heart Is Part of a Team (2:18-29)**
 - 1. Paul gives us a glimpse at two men
 - a) Timothy
 - b) Epaphroditus
 - 2. Are YOU part of the Pastor's Team? You are so needed if you are willing to serve!
- G. **A Pastor's Heart Is Christ's Heart (2:30)**
- H. Tonight, you have had the opportunity to take a peek inside a pastor's heart. Don't be so quick to judge your pastor, and ignore his warnings and pleadings – he, (I) love you!