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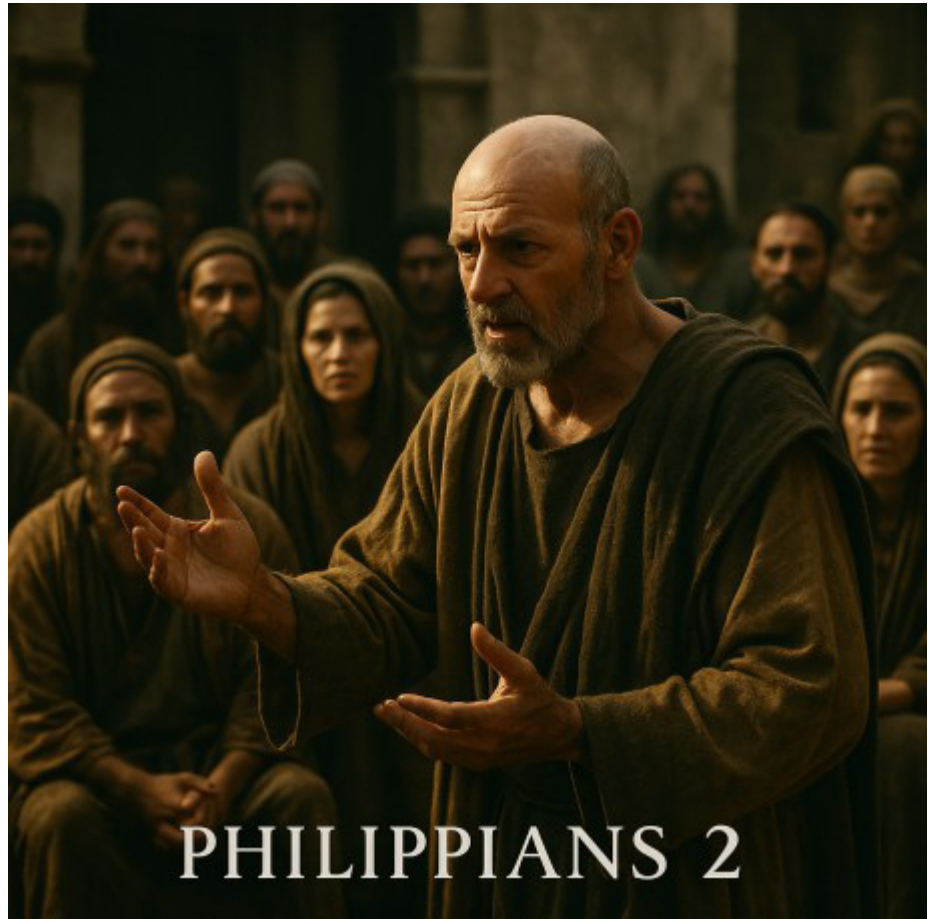
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Philippians 2 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Philippians 2

Philippians 2:1-2

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

† Paul appeals to unity grounded in encouragement, love, and the Spirit's fellowship.

† Joy is complete when the church stands in unity.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Philadelphians 2) emphasized that unity of mind and spirit preserves the church.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

† Selfishness destroys fellowship, humility sustains it.

† True unity comes when believers put others first.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 38) exhorted the church to humility and care for one another.

Philippians 2:5-7

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men.

† Christ's humility is the model for believers.

† Though divine, He did not cling to His rights, but took on servanthood.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 3.19.3) argued that Christ's incarnation revealed true humility and service.

Philippians 2:8-9

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross. For this reason also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.

† The lowest obedience, death on a cross, led to the highest exaltation.

† The cross is the path to glory.

† Tertullian (On the Flesh of Christ 5) emphasized the real humanity and real suffering of Christ in His death.

Philippians 2:10-11

So that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

† Christ is Lord over all creation, all will acknowledge His lordship.

† This echoes Isaiah 45:23, applied directly to Jesus.

† Origen (On Prayer 15) taught that this universal confession glorifies the Father through the Son.

Philippians 2:12-13

So then, my beloved, just as you 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; for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.

† Salvation is lived out actively, yet it is God working within.

† Fear and trembling reflect reverence, not despair.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 3.6-9) spoke of God working in His people to accomplish righteousness, fulfilled in Christ.

Philippians 2:14-16

Do all things without complaining or arguments; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding firmly the word of life, so that on the day of Christ I can take pride because I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

† The church must stand blameless in a corrupt generation.

† Believers shine as lights through obedience and faithfulness.

† Josephus (Wars 5.10.5) described Jerusalem's corruption,

echoing Paul's description of a crooked generation.

Philippians 2:17-18

But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

† Paul compares his life to a drink offering, poured out in service.

† Joy is shared even in suffering.

† Clement of Alexandria (Stromata 4.9) taught that martyrdom was the ultimate witness of joy in Christ.

Philippians 2:19-22

But I hope, in the Lord Jesus, to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. But you know of his proven character, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.

† Timothy's genuine concern and proven service made him unique among Paul's companions.

† Paul compares their relationship to that of father and son.

Philippians 2:23-24

Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me; and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly.

† Paul hopes to send Timothy soon, and even hopes to come himself.

† His trust is in the Lord's providence, not in circumstance.

Philippians 2:25-27

But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need, because he was longing for you all and was distressed since you had heard that he was sick. For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.

† Epaphroditus is honored as a brother, worker, soldier, and messenger.

† His illness nearly took his life, but God spared him.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 3.4) mentioned such faithful men who risked their lives in service to the gospel.

Philippians 2:28-30

Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold people like him in high regard, because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to compensate for your absence in your service to me.

† Paul urges the church to honor those who risk their lives for the gospel.

† Epaphroditus stands as a model of sacrificial service.

How it applies to us today

† Philippians 2 calls us to humility, unity, and sacrificial service, modeled after Christ Himself.

† The exaltation of Christ assures His lordship over all, and our calling is to live as lights in the world.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, joy, service, and unity mark the true body of Christ.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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