

# SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

## *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Philippians*

### **Philippians 2:17-24 – “Men Who Model Christ”**

*Philippians 2:17-24, “ Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me. But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me. But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.”*

In the second chapter of Philippians Paul is teaching us how to have joy in spite of people.

How?

The Submissive Mind

- a. The Plea (vs. 1-4) – Key vs. 3
- b. The Pattern (vs. 5-11) – Key vs. 5
- c. The Power (vs. 12-16) – Key vs. 13

The Christian life is not hard to live, its impossible apart from the power of the Holy Spirit.

When God is at work in your life it is possible.

Paul now gives us the proof

He cites three men who modeled the mind of Christ, and who were working out their own salvation without murmuring and disputing.

We learn that the ‘Submissive Mind’ is not a luxury to be enjoyed by a chosen few; but a necessity for Christian joy and maturity.

The men who modeled the mind of Christ (self-renounced, sacrificial living) are:

1. Paul himself (vs. 17-18)
2. Timothy (vs. 19-24)
3. Epaphroditus (vs. 25-30)

## I. Paul modeled the Mind of Christ

Philippians 2:17-18, " *Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.* "

He did not intend to use himself

Paul was not afraid to call on others to follow his example.

Philippians 4:9, " *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.* "

Paul knew that He must 'be', and 'do' all that God expects of Him, before he can require others to follow his example.

Notice two things about his example:

### 1. His Offering (vs. 17)

Philippians 2:17, " *Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith...* "

To understand this verse we need to realize that Paul is using a powerful image or word picture to convey his thoughts.

"...I be offered..."

It's the image of a 'drink offering'

Literally, 'If I am being poured out as a drink offering (called a libation)

It's the same word used in 2 Timothy 4:6

2 Timothy 4:6, " *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.* "

What was the sacrifice?

The Philippians faith (vs. 17)

Philippians 2:17, " *Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.* "

## Paul was living out (vs. 3-4)

Philippians 2:3-4, "*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*"

## 2. His Rejoicing (vs. 17b-18)

Philippians 2:17b-18, "*...I joy, and rejoice with you all. For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.*"

1<sup>st</sup> - Paul's 'joy and rejoicing' (the two verbs are indicative)

2<sup>nd</sup> – in verse 18 the Philippians 'joy and rejoicing' (the two verbs are imperatives)

Rejoicing needs to be reciprocal

Application – Many Christians are not experiencing joy simply because they are serving self, rather than the Saviour!

Illustration: The queen of Sweden sold her jewels to provide her people with hospitals and orphanages. One day she visited a convalescent home she had helped provide for. When tears of gratitude from a bedridden woman fell on the royal hand, the queen exclaimed, "God is sending me back my jewels again."

C.T. Studd - If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.

## II. Timothy Modeled the Mind of Christ (vs. 19-24)

Philippians 2:19-24, "*But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me. But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.*"

Timothy is one of my favorite Bible characters.

- A. His name – one who honors God
- B. His mother – Eunice was a Jewess, and his grandmothers name was Lois
- C. His father – was a Greek (not circumcised)
- D. He had been taught the Scriptures from a young age (2 Timothy 3:15)
- E. He probably met Paul in Lystra on his first missionary journey, and was converted (he was a son in the faith)

- F. Later on Paul's second journey (Acts 16) he joined Paul by this time. Timothy was well reported of by the brethren.
- G. He became a Pastor – with Paul in Philippi (Philippians 1:1)
- He was young and of a mixed race (social problems)
  - He was timid and fearful (emotional problems)
  - He was often sick (physical problems)

Remember God can use our weakness

Notice two things about Timothy:

1. Paul's purpose for him (vs. 19) (vs. 23-24)

Philippians 2:19, *"But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state."*

Philippians 2:23, 24, *"Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me. But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly."*

i. To send him to the Philippians (vs. 19a, 23)

We see Paul's pastoral concern: he was willing to give up Timothy for others

He was modeling Philippians 2:4 *"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."*

ii. To be comforted (vs. 19b)

Timothy would both bring comfort to the Philippians and Paul (1:27, 2:2)

Philippians 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;"*

Philippians 2:2, *"Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."*

iii. To prepare for Paul's own visit (vs. 24)

Notice vs. 24, *"I trust in the Lord"*

Notice vs. 19, *"I trust in the Lord"*

Paul was trusting in God's loving purposes and plan for his life (vs. 23).

Notice "...how it will go with me..." (vs. 23)

What happened?

Did Paul visit them?

## 2. Paul's Preference of Timothy (vs. 20-22)

Philippians 2:20-22, "*For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.*"

Why send Timothy, why not someone else?

5 reasons:

### 1. He was like-minded (vs. 20a)

Philippians 2:20, "*For I have no man likeminded...*"

Literally, *equal soul or kindred spirit*

How?

The mind of Christ (vs. 5)

Application – The need for like-minded men

### 2. He had a genuine concern for others (vs. 20b)

Philippians 2:20-22, "*...who will naturally care for your state.*"

Naturally is genuinely, so it was real

N.I.V., "*He takes a genuine interest in your welfare*"

The same as in 2 Corinthians 11:28. "*the care of all the churches*"

Do you care?

a. about the Church

- b. about God's people
- c. about others

3. He was not self-seeking (vs. 21a)

Philippians 2:21a, "*For all seek their own...*"

Unfortunately selfishness permeates the Church today, as it does all segments of society.

What's in it for me?

It's destructive to the life and health of the Church.

It's the flesh

Its worldliness

Jesus said, "*Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.*" (Luke 17:33)

4. He was living for Christ (vs. 21b)

Philippians 2:20-22, "*...not the things which are Jesus Christ's.*"

He was kingdom minded

Matthew 6:33, "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*"

Philippians 1:21, "*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*"

What's first in your life?

5. He was a servant (vs. 22)

Philippians 2:22, "*But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.*"

Philippians 1:1, "*Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ...*"

Philippians 2:7, "*But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*"

What kind of servant was Timothy?

- a. He was a proven servant – *“But ye know the proof of him,…”*

Elders – 1 Timothy 3:6 - *“not a novice…”*

Deacons – 1 Timothy 3:10 - *“And let these also first be proved;…”*

- b. He was a cooperative servant – *“...as a son with the father, he hath served with me...”*

He was not a loose cannon – he worked cooperatively with others

It’s not “my ministry”

A real mark of maturity is the ability to work together with others for the common good of the Kingdom and glory of God.

Timothy did all he could to lighten Paul’s load.

There was no “generation gap”!

- c. He was a gospel servant – *“...served with me in the gospel.”*

It’s all about getting out the gospel!