

II: Philippians 2: The Gospel Mindset

1. Encouragement in Christ (2:1-4)

Paul has been speaking of progress of gospel. This never unopposed Satan's characteristic tactics hinted at in Philippians

In chap. 1: bids them be strong in face of suffering for Christ.

In chap 2: bids them be united in face of potential disunity

He has already hinted at this concern ◇ 1: 4, 7, 8, 27.

He points them to the secret of unity in the mind of Christ

2. The Mind of Christ (2:5-11)

- His humiliation (2:6-8)
- His exaltation (2:9-11)

3. Salvation in Christ (2:12-18)

Obedience in the absence of Paul

- 2:12-13: Working out salvation
- 2:14-15: Fellowship without grumbling
- 2:16-18: Witnessing with rejoicing

4. Devotion to Christ 2:19-30

Indication of his plans: Epaphroditus now; Timothy later.

Both men who exhibit the hallmarks of genuine gospel ministry

(i) Timothy: vv.19-24

His genuine concern—twofold in nature:

- Directed to others
- Directed to Christ

(ii) Epaphroditus: vv.25-30

His service—fourfold in nature

His hallmarks—twofold in character

Conclusion: Having the Mind of Christ.

III: Philippians 3: The Gospel Hallmarks

Paul now encourages two things:

- (i) v. 1: Joy in the Lord and (ii) v. 2-3 Watchfulness against false teachers
Identity of the latter leads him into a deeply personal section of the letter.

1. What Paul was by Nature

Paul frequent comments on his past. Here intimately and at length

- (i) A man with impeccable pedigree and performance (vv. 3-5)
(ii) A man with a violent heart (v. 6)

2. What Paul became by Grace

What happened to Saul of Tarsus? Converted or Called?

Excursus on the clues embedded in NT.

The New Ambition:

- (i) **Focus** of his new ambition—knowledge of Christ
To know him—at heart of salvation:
True of his (a) preaching; (b) living:
Impressive: Magnitude of v.8 ◇
- Extent to which he had meditated on Christ vv.8-14.
 - Forgotten art, yet rich fruit: 2 Cor. 3:18
 - Depth to which he was devoted to Christ

Kurio = Yahweh usually; but here: deity and devotion

- (ii) **Implications** of his new ambition—vv.8-10. Spells this out

- (iii) **Effects** of his new ambition

- Satisfied dissatisfaction: vv.12-14.
- Single minded simplicity: v.13
- Spiritual accountancy. Progressive 'loss' (vv.7-8).

3. Why Paul is important as an example(3:17-21)

Note the contrasts which form the second element in the inclusion of chapter 3 (first bookend is in 3:2-3):

| Hallmarks: | Life opposed to the cross | Life under the Cross |
|------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| God | Belly | Christ |
| Mindset | Earthly things | Heavenly things |
| Glory | Shame | Transformation |
| Destiny | Destruction | Resurrection |

Conclusion: The power and glory of Paul's eschatological hope

IV: Philippians 4: The Gospel outworking

Final section underlines that it is a letter. Comments not entirely random.
 Use of *phronein*: How you 'think' determines attitude and actions.

1. How to think in relation to each other (vv. 1-3)

v. 1 how he thinks of them.

He mentions 2 individuals by name. Disunity not a private matter.

How does Paul deal with it?

(i) He is aware of their present estrangement

- Appeals to each individually
- Exhorts to a true unity
- Encourages Syzygos to engage in a difficult ministry.

(ii) He reminds them of their past commitment

- endangers whole fellowship.
- causes a diversion from the great work they engaged in.
- makes it impossible for them to express mind of Christ.

(iii) He motivates them in the light of their future agreement

Names in Book of Life. Exod 32:32; Rev. 20:15.

2. How to think about daily experiences (vv. 4-9)

(i) We are to rejoice in Christ

(ii) We are to be patient with each other

(iii) We are to be anxiety-free in our selves

3. How to think about work of the gospel (v. 10f)

(i) Undertaken in sufficiency of God (v. 11-13)

(ii) Undertaken in fellowship with others (v. 10, 14-23)

- They had shared in his troubles. v.14
- They had shared in his ministry v.15-16
- They would share in the blessing vv.17-19

(ii) Undertaken in view of triumph of gospel

- In Philippi - the three converts
- In Rome - at the centre of the Empire
- In Caesar's house - within reach of the throne

Conclusion: No barriers; No distinctions; No exceptions

Philippians: A Test Case in Gospel Ministry

Introduction: Why study Philippians?

Theme: The Ministry of the Gospel and the Fellowship of the Gospel

- (i) Background to the Letter;
- (ii) Paul's Context and Reason for Writing

I: Philippians 1: The Gospel Fellowship

1: Ongoing Partnership in the Gospel

1:1-2: Characteristic Greetings

Significant addition?

1:3-5: Expression of thankfulness for their concern for him

1:6-8: Expressions of Paul's concern for them:

- (i) affection for them
- (ii) confidence in God's work in them

1:9-11: Expressions of his intercession for their growth

But he is also concerned they have been anxiously concerned for him:

2: Personal Prospects as Christ's Apostle

He wants to reassure them that he experiences the truth he taught them:

(i) His conviction that God was working through him (v. 12-18).

(ii) His expectation of how God would deliver him (vv. 19-26)

1:19: Expectation of his deliverance

1:20-26: Consecration to something more important

- Explanation for such a spirit.
- Implications of such a spirit

3. His exhortation to fellow believers to encourage them (vv. 27-30)

(i) Stand together in the gospel

(ii) Striving together for the gospel

(iii) Secure from fear of opposition to gospel

Sign of destruction and salvation (v.28).

Christ-centred communion (v.29-30)

Conclusion: Summary of gospel reaction to opposition