Philippians Chapter 2: Passages and Notes

**Highlights and Themes**

Chapter 2 considered by many the central message and “linchpin” of Philippians

Addresses the “character” of the Christian community, not just in relationship with Paul but in daily life without Paul.

Presents us with the Christ hymn, now believed to have been a regular part of worship by Christians

Gives the community (and us) the challenge of “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus”.

Includes the admonition, “work on your own salvation with fear and trembling”.

Focuses on life for the community and the individual believer, and does not appear to reference “eternity”.

Introduces us (perhaps) to the oversights/mistakes(?) of our theological ancestors who organized the scriptures by chapter and verse

**Organization of the “Chapter”**

**Whether Paul is Present or Absent**

**Philippians 1: 27-30 Christian Conduct in Relation to a Hostile, Unbelieving Community**

**Philippians 2: 1-11 Christian Conduct Within the Believing Community (includes the Christ hymn)**

**Philippians 2: 12-16 Christian Conduct in Relation to Paul**

**Philippians 2: 17-3:1a Travel Plans (autobiographical detail) – Expect visits from Timothy and Epaphroditus**

**Philippians 1: 27-30 Christian Conduct in Relation to a Hostile, Unbelieving Community**

1 **27**Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel **28**and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. **29**For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, **30**since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The church must not be defined by opposition but by standing firm in one spirit and in one mind for the faith of the gospel. Otherwise, if they cease to act, but simply react, then it is no longer the gospel but the culture which gives the church identity. How does Grace fall in this instance? How do we contrast that Matthew 25 churches?

**Philippians 2: 1-11 Christian Conduct Within the Believing Community (includes the Christ hymn)**

**2**If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, **2**make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3**Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. **4**Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. **5**Let the same mind be in you that was[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%202&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-29380a)] in Christ Jesus,

Note the key words we recognized last week in chapter 1. Joy, fellowship love, partnership, affection, unity and mindset or attitude

The passage is positive but the fact that Paul goes there may suggest otherwise. Paul probably addressing the apparent dilemma of conflict between two women leaders in the church, Euodia and Syntyche.

How does life look “regarding others as better than yourselves”? Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ…

Others in the church???? Or others in general???? How would humility look in either instance?

The Christ Hymn

**6**who, though he existed in the form of God,  
    did not regard equality with God  
    as something to be grasped,  
**7**but emptied himself,  
    taking the form of a slave,  
    assuming human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a human,  
**8**    he humbled himself  
    and became obedient to the point of death—  
    even death on a cross.

**9**Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
    and gave him the name  
    that is above every other name,  
**10**so that at the name given to Jesus  
    every knee should bend,  
    in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
**11**and every tongue should confess  
    that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
    to the glory of God the Father.

Once considered poetry by Paul, now recognized as a common hymn used in the church. (Ernst Lohmeyer 1927)

Used at least every year in Passion time – Palm Sunday and Easter

Broken down in three phases of Christ: pre-existence, earthly career, glorification. Pre-existence not uncommon in NT but not found generally in Judaic text

Paul describes what the “in Christ Jesus” mind is

Kenosis In [Christian theology](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=6d0677058142dad3JmltdHM9MTY2NzY5MjgwMCZpZ3VpZD0yMWIyNTRiOS1iNThjLTY3YmMtMDhkZi00NGJmYjQ5ZTY2YjgmaW5zaWQ9NTQ1MA&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=21b254b9-b58c-67bc-08df-44bfb49e66b8&u=a1L3NlYXJjaD9xPUNocmlzdGlhbit0aGVvbG9neSZmaWx0ZXJzPXNpZCUzYTg4Nzc3MTMwLWE0ZDYtNzNlYS05Njk3LWIwNWM0NjVjM2JmNiZmb3JtPUVOVExOSw&ntb=1), kenosis (Ancient Greek: κένωσις, romanized : kénōsis, lit. ' lit. 'the act of emptying'') is the**'self-emptying' of Jesus ' own will and becoming entirely receptive to God's divine will**.

Every knee should bend… salvation for all???

**Philippians 2: 12-16 Christian Conduct in Relation to Paul**

**12**Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, **13**for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**14**Do all things without murmuring and arguing, **15**so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world, **16**holding forth the word of life so that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

**17**But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with all of you; **18**in the same way also you should rejoice and rejoice together with me.

Paul reiterates the possibility of his presence or his absence and church normality in both instances, but moreso in his absence –the Apostle’s last words??

Work on your own salvation…

**Philippians 2: 17-3:1a Travel Plans (autobiographical detail) – Expect visits from Timothy and Epaphroditus**

**19**I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I, too, may be consoled by news of you. **20**I have no one so like myself who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. **21**All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. **22**But Timothy’s[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%202&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-29397b)] worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. **23**I hope therefore to send him as soon as I see how things go with me, **24**and I trust in the Lord that I will also come soon.

**25**Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and coworker and fellow soldier, your messenger[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%202&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-29400c)] and minister to my need, **26**for he has been longing for[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%202&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-29401d)] all of you and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. **27**He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. **28**I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may rejoice at seeing him again and that I may be less anxious. **29**Welcome him, then, in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people, **30**because he came close to death for the work of Christ,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%202&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-29405e)] risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me.

The Closing

**3**Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord.

Rejoice vs farewell NEB