

“The Mind of Christ”
Week 4: Philippians 1:27 – 2:4

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel, without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved – and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.

- 1. What does it mean to “conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ”?**
- 2. Paul encourages the Philippians to “stand firm” and not be frightened by those who opposed them. What do you think it means for us to “stand firm” in today’s world? What opposition do we face? What does it mean for us to not be frightened by those who oppose us?**
- 3. What do you think Paul means when he says that “it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ...to suffer for him”? What encouragement would the Philippians have taken from the fact that they were “going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have”?**

4. The word “therefore” is always an important one in Scripture, because it calls us to some response to the information which has just been given. How do the ideas of encouragement, comfort, tenderness, and compassion relate to struggling and suffering for Christ?

5. What does Paul say will “make my joy complete”? How does this compare to the things that we often think will “make each other’s joy complete”?

6. What is “selfish ambition”? What is “vain conceit”? How could selfish ambition and vain conceit influence what we do as followers of Jesus? How could they influence what we collectively do as the Church?

7. How do you interpret Paul’s charge to “value others above yourselves”? How can we put that into practice?

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