

PHILIPPIANS 2 vs 1

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In the days of Julian, the apostate of Rome, a scoffer enquired: What is your Carpenter doing now? The answer of the unperturbed Christian came: Making a coffin for your Emperor! Jesus told us that scoffers would come, well they have arrived; Jesus told us so many things -- wonderful things, too....



¹ So If there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship / in Greek: **koinonia**... like the old coin jar on the shelf... with pennies and nickels and dimes and quarters... a common unity; coins of all shapes and values -- with one binding characteristic: we belong to Christ; He purchased us... Paul says: lose the divisive and contentious, wounded spirit outside the door.

if any common unity of the Spirit,

if any gutsy compassion / Paul reminds us: God our Father is rich in mercy... slow to anger; it is the way of the angry world to be merciless; Jesus would say: [become like your Father in heaven](#).

² Fulfil my joy / Paul tell us what he learned from the Lord Jesus: that in the eternities, God his Father, and the Lord Jesus, and the Spirit of God... they like each other a lot... there is lots of room for all of them, and they are working to make room for all the adopted kids who come to stay. We learn what God our Father and His Son and His Spirit and all the others with them are like. So, Paul says,

that you be likeminded / 3 Greek words: **autos** = **same** + **ho** = **who** + **phroneo** = **to think**... we can say: **who understand the same**; and some might ask Paul: the same what? Or, think the same as who? But be patient; Paul was a good teacher... he is pacing himself with these 5 points... to make sure he didn't miss anything he learned... as he attempts to get the Lord's followers to think clearly,

having the same understanding,

having the same love / evidenced by the desire to seek the well-being of others; thereby, not needing to look out for my interests, because others will be doing that,

of one accord / in Greek: **sympsychos**... you know, people 2000 years ago, were so much smarter than our genius 21st generation, weren't they? Paul is using ordinary words those men and women, young and old understood. Now days, with all our tech conveniences we just like to feel good -- though we don't. And in lazy church gatherings, we just want to sing -- half-heartedly, and smile insipidly... while we secretly foment our hatreds; of course thanking God we are not like others! Paul says: No! Wrong congregation!

having the same spirit, of one mind / wow! That's a handful! Now, quite honestly, I do not know any church-gathering now days, who would rise to what Paul said... and **fulfill Paul's joy**.

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of one mind / the word is: **phroneo**... a form of this word is used 11 times in this little letter; and because it is something absent in the 21st century church gatherings... we of the genius generation... ought to understand what we are missing -- in other words, what screw has come loose!

Actually, the word for mind is: **nous**. Paul assumes we have a mind:

he now uses the word that talks about what is **IN** our mind: **our thoughts... our attitudes**; because if we all are in the same boat rowing, we ought row the same direction whenever 2 or 3 or more come together.

of one mind understanding / not yours; not mine... **but Christ's understanding**. We students should know what Jesus the good Teacher knew... and still is eager to teach those who come to Him; because they would find rest... and probably joy and peace, too... for their soul.

So Jesus taught lessons of the heart... and the students finding his rest... were those who did not know... it was okay to do good on the sabbath; but the good Teacher had the answer: in God's kingdom it is always right... to do good. Think about it! The good Teacher said: in the world you will have tribulations... so He knows what goes on in the world; but Jesus said that is only ½ of the story... adding: be of good courage -- again using very unscientific words. But that didn't bother His students... because it was as if the good Teacher spoke a different language -- but not the gibberish of the world, not hypothetical theorems, no abstract conjectures, no theoretical hocus pocus of any kind, yet a language that was out of this world... that they could understand! He had a different vocabulary... and Jesus taught as someone who had authority... not like all the others... when He said things like: [I have overcome the world](#). And Paul said:

Fulfil my joy: 1. having the same understanding, 2. having the same love, 3. of one accord, 4. having the same spirit... 5. of one mind understanding...

Paul says, As in heaven, so on earth... those who gather representing the Lord from every nation... should not follow the same course seen in the world: like the blatant malaise evident in the mindless brand of govt strategies in the world, as they [hard as iron](#) charitably destroy civilization -- seen in the news today.

³ **not through strife or vainglory** / no bickering and no vacant-head boasting... Paul says: not needed; Paul says try this: **change your thinking**;

but in humility of mind / of understanding ...that would be novel! Peter wrote: be clothed in humility... humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God; that is something Peter learned to do; it is what Paul learned; it is what Jesus did... who must have learned it from a very loving Father.

let each esteem others better than themselves / other translations read: practice treating one another as your superiors -- Wms; each of you should regard others as of more account than yourself -- TCNT; let each one of you regard others as more important than himself -- NASB; **calculate their cost much higher than yours, be generous** -- KEITH.

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⁴ Do not look just for you / the word is: **heautou**... a reflexive pronoun referring to the most important person we know: **our self**, myself, yourself, himself, or herself. Positively speaking Paul says, on your list of important things to do... even important things to do representing Christ;

hurry to be last in line,

but everyone / every man, woman and child,

also ~~on the things of~~ others / for all the good of the English language, the word: **thing** or **things**... is often not in the original. God lovingly speaks to people; He's not so much worried about things. What God created was, and still is good! It's just mankind... who has the problem; but He is dealing with them. Drop the obsessive focus on things! Jesus said the night He was betrayed: by this all will know that you are My disciples... if you have love, one to another. That's it. Love for others will help to figure out what details need to be filled in... to their good; to the well-being of others is my responsibility, and not the duty of govt buffoons who can't keep the holes in the streets filled in: No antichrist delivering the people is needed!

but everyone in love looking out for others / not a relevant term of a loveless society.

⁵ Let this mind / this understanding... be in you / own this mindset, this understanding... looking out for others... instead of thinking I need to look out for myself; if we are looking to secure the good of others; then sooner or later, God's circle of love freely given will come around our direction. But don't stop there... as well, we can also work to secure the well-being of those who don't know Him, yet,

which was also in Christ Jesus / Jesus our great Teacher doesn't tell us to do what He won't do. He teaches by example. Paul says, learn how Jesus thinks, learn what He knows that causes Him to act:

⁶ Who, being in the form of God / **morphe Theou**... whatever God is, we are told He is spirit, He is a non-physical embodiment, **Jesus was the same**; but He was no amorphous blob. Now Paul helps us fill in some of our gaps in understanding; what Paul writes comes from a memorable lesson he had with his Teacher, who tells us something He did think... as well as did not think... prior to living among us,

being in the form of God...

He did not think it robbery to be equal with God / He was not like a criminal at work; not grabbing like a thief -- stealing what belonged to God; somehow robbing God; to prove His equality with God:

⁷ but made himself of no reputation / he emptied himself... whatever that means: something we can ponder, but not fully comprehend; so He is very different than anyone you or I know, **being in the form of God**... whatever that means,

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and took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men / He became a doulos, He changed his form; he embodied someone at the lowest level of society... someone who had to purchase his freedom:

⁸ and being found in fashion as a man / having stepped from heaven's glory; having discarded his form, his status, his name, his majesty, his excellency; Isaiah tells us... even his physical features were not really attractive... and from that lowly position,

he humbled himself / further stepping down... to do the dirtiest job that nobody would ever do in a million years; to be a servant of servants; a slave to the slaves, picking up and carrying away the crap of the whole damn world, in the cesspool of God's creation, as He lived among us, enabling us to start over,

and became obedient unto death,

even the death of the cross / a type of death not even required by a roman slave; a type of death feared, and odious to the Jewish people.

⁹ Wherefore / because of His obedience, even though the world doesn't give a crap, and would yawn at these words; and the church has fallen asleep, having lost its first love... wanting to feel good for a season,

God also has highly exalted Him,

giving Him a name that is above every name:

¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee will bow / whether they like it or not; whether they want to or not,

of those in heaven, and those on earth, and those under the earth / everybody;

¹¹ and that every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

¹² For this reason, beloved, as you always obeyed, not in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling / with phobias and traumas; troubles are part of the journey, keep on walking. God is saving us from some things; and saving us for other things. Winston Churchill said, If you are going through hell, keep going!

¹³ For God is at work in you, to do His will and His good pleasure / through the power of His Spirit, not just to desire and think about it; but to actually accomplish what pleases God. And what pleases God is to act in faith: to help secure the good for others, as we walk through this world; that is what Jesus did like no other; and if He can secure the good for others, then so can I. Now, that is amazing!

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Paul, who declared the greatness of our Lord, now addresses typical problems in the church in Philippi

¹⁴ **Do all without mumbling and arguing:**

¹⁵ **that you are blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the middle of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you shine as lights in the world;**

¹⁶ **holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ** / keeping the Word of the Lord who came from heaven front and center, what He taught; His words, His thoughts, His ways; that is how we shine in this world. When the masses started to decrease; Jesus asked, Will you also go away? Peter answered, [Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life](#). All in the church Jesus is building... will one Day stand before the Lord who saved us, to find what if anything we did to further His kingdom... will continue beyond our little space of time given us, to run the race in faith,

that I have not run in vain, nor labored in vain.

¹⁷ **Yes, and if I am offered on the sacrifice and service of your faith** / the possibility of Paul being killed by a hostile verdict in Rome or by religious zealots... pressed on Paul's mind; but he dismissed it.

I joy, and rejoice with you all.

¹⁸ **For the same cause also do you joy, and rejoice with me.**

¹⁹ **But I trust the Lord Jesus to send Timothy shortly to you, that I also may be of comforted, when I know your situation.**

²⁰ **For I have no one with the same mindset, who will naturally care for your situation.**

²¹ **For all seek after themselves, not Jesus Christ's** / the Psalmist said, [1,000 will fall by your side, 10,000 at your right hand... but it will not come near you](#). Had Paul seen men and women, deceivers in sheep's clothing, come and go? Paul reminds the Philippians that Jesus is building His church; which means His agenda we are to advance, and His way is not difficult. Paul knew, when we've been there 10,000 years... it will simply be amazing, forever! But Paul also knew... we still have to get there.

²² **But you know the proof of him** / you know what Timothy is made of, **who like a son with the father, he has served with me in the gospel.**

²³ **So I hope to send him directly, as soon as I see how it goes with me.**

²⁴ **But I trust in the Lord that I also myself will come shortly** / always hopeful; often pressured but never destroyed... Paul paid a great price... having a 1,000 - loves and likes... and wishes and wants, but holding his plans loosely... to take the talents God had given him... to enrich all who would respond to this great good news of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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²⁵ Yet I supposed it necessary to send Epaphroditus to you, my brother and companion and fellow-soldier in labor, but **your apostelos**, who ministered to my wants.

²⁶ For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because you heard he had been sick.

²⁷ For indeed he was sick near to death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but also on me, lest I have sorrow upon sorrow / Paul was grateful to God for restoring the ruined health of this brother in the Lord.

²⁸ Therefore I sent him the more carefully, that, when you see him again, **you may rejoice**, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all gladness; and hold him in high regard:

³⁰ because for the work of Christ he was near to death, not regarding his life, to fully supply your sacred service to me.

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