**Chapter 2: The Submissive Mind (How to experience joy in spite of other people)**

**2.1 The Prescription for Joy (2:1-2)**

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

**2.2 The Pattern of Submission (2:3-4)**

3Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus6

**2.3 The Example of Christ (2:5-11)**

**2.3.1 His Status (2:6a)**

Who, being in very natureGod,

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**2.3.2 His Submission (2:6b)**

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage rather, he made himself nothing

**2.3.3 His Service (2:7)**

by taking the very natureof a servant, being made in human likeness.

**2.3.4 His Sacrifice (2:8)**

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

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**2.3.5 He Shows God’s Glory (2:9-11)**

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**2.4 The Example of Paul (2:12-18)**

**2.4.1 There is a Purpose to Achieve (2:12, 14-16) [Through obedience]**

12Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,…14Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

**2.4.2 There is a Power to Receive (2:13) [Through the Holy Spirit]**

continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling 13for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

1. Is Paul saying we need to work FOR our Salvation? Eph 2:8,9
2. Is Paul saying we need to work FOR our Sanctification? Galatians 2:20-23
3. What does Paul mean then by the word “work”? Galatians 6:8,9
4. What does Paul mean by “fear and trembling?” Psalm 2:11
5. Why should we have seriousness about our sanctification?
6. First Reason (Matthew 5:15)
7. Second Reason (Romans 14:12,13; Matthew 15:14-20)

**2.4.3 There is a Promise to Believe (2:16b-18) [Through faith]**

And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. 17But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

1. Why could Paul rejoice in his circumstance? What promise did he believe? 2 Timothy 1:12

**2.5 The Example of Timothy (2:19-24)**

**2.5.1 He had a servant’s heart (2:19-21)**

9I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. 20I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. 21For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

**2.5.2 He had a servant’s training (2:22)**

22But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.

**2.5.3 He had a servant’s reward (2:23)**

23I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. 24And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

**2.6 The Example of Epaphroditus (2:25-30)**

**2.6.1 He was a balanced Christian (2:25)**

25But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.

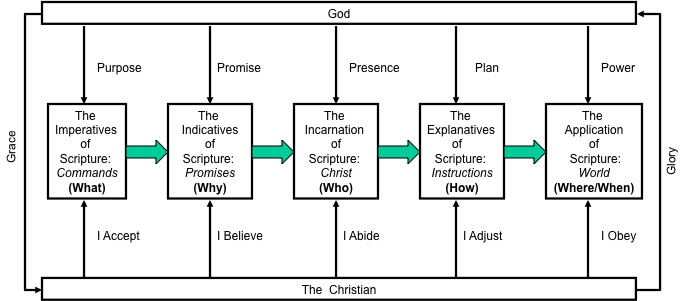
**2.6.2 He was a burdened Christian (2:26-27,30)**

26For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. 27Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. 30because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

**2.6.3 He was a blessed Christian (2:28-29)**

8Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. 29So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him,

**Applying Scripture**



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| **Imperative** | **Imperative** | **Indicative** | **Incarnation** | **Explanatives** | **Application** |
| 1 | Phil 2:2a | I Corinth 1:10 | Col 3:1-2 | 2 Corinth 3:11 |  |
| 2 | Phil 2:2b | John 13:34 | Eph 5:1-2 | Rom 12:9-13 |  |
| 3 | Phil 2:2c | Eph 4:3-6 | Eph 4:4-6 | Rph 4:25-32 |  |
| 4 | Phil 2:2d | Eph 2:11-18 | Phil 2:10 | Eph 4:11-16 |  |
| 5 | Phil 2:3a | I Corinth 13:4 | Phil 2:5-8 | Gal 5:22-26 |  |
| 6 | Phil 2:3b | I Peter 5:5-6 | Eph 5:21 | Rom 12:3 |  |
| 7 | Phil 2:4 | Jms 2:15-17 | Rom 15:1-4 | Rom 12:9-13 |  |
| 8 | Phil 2:5 | Heb 12:14 | I Peter 4:1-2 | Eph 4:22 |  |
| 9 | Phil 2:12a | Phil 2:12a | Phil 4:6-7 | 2 Tim 2:15 |  |
| 10 | Phil 2:14 | Phil 2:14-16 | Mat 11:28-30 | I Pt 2:11-12 |  |
| 11 | Phil 2:16 | 2 Corinth 2:20 | John 1:1-4 | Ps 33, 119 |  |
| 12 | Phil 2:17a | Heb 13:14-16 | Heb 12:2-3 | Rms 12:1-2 |  |
| 13 | Phil 2:17b | Eph 4:11-13 | Mark 9:41 | Matt 25:40 |  |
| 14 | Phil 2:18 | Phil 2:18 | Rms 15:4-6 | Col 3:16 |  |

**Homework:**

1. Diagram one of the passages from Philippians 2
2. Interrogate the Passage
3. Pick one application
4. Read chapter 3 of Philippians

**Reinforcing the Passage**

**Humility by C.S. Lewis**

“There is one vice of which no man in the world is free; which every one in the world loathes when he sees it is someone else; and with hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine that they are guilty themselves. I have heard people admit that they are bad-tempered, or that they cannot keep their heads about girls, or drink, or even that they are cowards. I do not think I have every heard anyone who was not a Christian accuse himself of this vice. And at the same time I have very seldom met anyone, who was not a Christian, who showed the slightest mercy to it in others. There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it ourselves, the more we dislike it in others. The vice I am talking of is Pride or Self-Conceit. Pride is the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began. In God, you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that – and therefore, know yourself as nothing in comparison – you do not know God at all. As long as you are proud you cannot know God.”

**The Bondage of Self by Henry Scougal**

”I am many times convinced of my own meanness, of the weakness of my body, and far greater the weakness of my soul; but this doth rather beget indignation and discontent, than true humility in my spirit; and though I should come to think meanly of myself, yet I cannot endure that others should think so too. In a word, when I reflect on my highest and most specious attainments, I have reason to suspect, that they are all but the effects of nature, the issues of self-love acting under several disguises; and this principle is so powerful, and so deeply rooted in me, that I can never hope to be delivered from the dominion of it. I may toss and turn as a door on the hinges, but can never get clear off, or be quite unhinged of self, which is still the center of all my motions; so that all the advantage I can draw from the discovery of religion is but to see, at a huge distance, that felicity which I am not able to reach; like a man in shipwreck, who discerns the land, and envies the happiness of those who are there, but thinks it impossible for himself to get ashore. Indeed, it is impossible to get ashore by the force of will, for ultimately the tug of the current will soon overtake even my most ardent strokes. It is only by the force of the divine tide, driven by that attraction to Christ, that shall lift that soul and carry it past the jagged reef of self, to deposit it upon the shore of grace.”

**The Importance of Working Out Our Salvation by Dallas Willard**

“There is a widespread notion that just passing through death transforms human character. Discipleship is not needed. Just believe enough to “make it.” But I have never been able to find any basis in scriptural tradition or psychological reality to think that this might be so. What if death only forever fixes us as the kind of person we are at death or defines the person or role that we will be assigned for eternity? Indeed, the Bible does seem to imply that our assignments in eternity will be based on our faithfulness while on earth. What then are you doing with the time that God has allocated you while you are on this planet? Is not the day of judgment fast approaching?”

**Music Selections**

1. Make My Life A Prayer to You (Keith Green)
2. Embrace the Cross (Steve Green)
3. How Deep The Father’s Love For (Sovereign Grace Music – Bob Kaulfin – Together for the Gospel)
4. Only Jesus (Matt Redman)
5. Forever (Kari Jobe)

**Movie Selections**

1. Jesus of Nazareth (G)
2. El Cid (G) – a picture of a humble heart
3. Sergeant York (PG) – a picture of a submissive heart
4. Groundhog Day (PG) – a picture of the prideful heart
5. Mildred Pierce (PG) – a picture of the ungrateful heart