

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, through March 9, 1969CHRISTIAN LIKE-MINDEDNESS AND ITS QUALITIES. Philippian 2:1-41. CHRISTIAN-LIKE MINDEDNESS1. What Christian like-mindedness includes:(Philippians 2:1, 2)

1. It must include agreement as to matters of doctrine. Titus 2:1
2. It must include liberty in matters of opinion.
3. It must include agreement as to methods and aims of doing the work of the Lord where judgement may be left to the members.
 1. At this point there were symptoms of jealousy, leading to a quarrel, manifest in the conduct of two ladies of the Philippian congregation. Phil. 4:2. (Euodias and Syntyche)
 1. These wmen apparently had been laborers with Paul in the gospel.
 2. It is difficult to say to what extent these two ladies had disturbed the unity of the church in Philippi.

2. THE QUALITIES OF CHRISTIAN LIKE-MINDEDNESS, Philippians 2:3, 4.

1. A warning against strife (faction) and vainglory. Verse 3
 1. Faction and strife will carry men beyond the bounds of descretion and will rend the brotherhood.
 2. Please consider:
 - Proverbs 17:14; "The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.
 - Proverbs 20:3; "It is an honor for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling."
 - Proverbs 25:28; "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."
 - Proverbs 26:12; "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him."
2. The real qualities involved in Christian like-mindedness.
 1. Three things necessary to unity.
 1. Harmony of feeling to one another. How is this expressed?
 1. Verse 2, "That ye be like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of ~~one~~ mind."
 2. Humility of deportment toward one another.
 1. Verse 3, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." This implies:
 1. That we have a just idea of the excellency of others. 1 Peter 2:17; "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.
 2. That in honor we are to prefer one another. Rom. 12:10
 3. Generous concern one for another.
 1. Verse 4, "Look not every man own his own things, but every man also on the things of otheres."
 1. There is no real antagonism between the interest of self and the interest of others.
 2. We secure our own individual well-being and happiness by promoting the interest of others.

3. Consider the four influencing motives to Christian unity. They are:

1. "That ye be likeminded."
2. "Having the same love."
3. "Being of one accord."
4. "Of one mind." 1 Cor. 1:10; "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

CHRISTIAN LIKE-MINDEDNESS AND ITS QUALITIES, Philippians 2:1-4

I. CHRISTIAN LIKE-MINDEDNESS

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Sunday, February 9, 1969(PAGE TWO)JESUS CHRIST THE SUPREME EXAMPLE OF HUMBLE-MINDEDNESS. Phil. 2:5-8

1. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2:5
 1. Literally: "Mind this in you which was also minded in Christ Jesus."
 2. Lesson: The words, "in Christ Jesus," show that the corresponding words, "in you" cannot mean:
 1. "Among you," that is, some have it (the mind of Christ) but others among you are excused in not having it.
 2. The words do mean: "In each one of you." Each one of you at Philippi and therefore each one of you Rapid City.
2. What is it that we are to mind in order to have the mind of Christ?
 1. The things which the Lord Jesus minded. That is simple is it not?
 2. To sum it up we are to:
 1. Love what he loved. He loved his enemies.
 2. To hate what he hated. He hated sin and its results.
 3. The thoughts, the desires, the motives of the Christian should be the thoughts, the desires, the motives that filled the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 3. We should keep in mind the dual mind of man. Rom. 8:6; we read;
 1. "For to be carnally minded is death."
 2. "But to be spiritually minded is life and peace."
3. Two ways through which we may exhibit to all (Christians and those of the world) the mind of Christ. They are:
 1. In the outward life.
 1. Jesus pleased not himself; he sought not the high places of the world.
 2. He did not choose nor seek after a life of ease, comfort, pleasure.
 3. He lived for others, he went about doing good.
 4. He cared for the temporal needs of the sick and poor. He was able to cope with the many strange contrasts of life. Examples:
 1. Wealth and abject poverty drew a contrast with many.
 2. Joy and utter misery in that day as in this day.
 5. In view of all this coupled with the great need as indicated we should not be surprised to read in Matt. 20:28; "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." See also Mark 10:45
 2. In the inner life of thought and feeling.
 1. The life of Christ in thought and motives should be the end to which the high calling of the Christian points.
 2. So we sum it all up by saying that to have the mind of Christ we must be:
 1. Like him in the outward life of obedience.
 2. Like him in the inner life of holy thought.

SOME FEATURES OF THE MIND OF CHRIST

1. RESIGNATION: Luke 22:42; "...not my will, but thine be done." John 5:30; "I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father"
2. MEEKNESS: Matt. 11:29; "I am meek and lowly in heart."
3. PRAYERFULNESS: Luke 6:12; "...Jesus went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."
4. SYMPATHY: "Jesus Wept." John 11:33-35
5. GRIEF AT THE UNBELIEF OF OTHERS: Mark 3:5; The man with the withered hand.
6. BENEVOLENCE: Acts 10:38; "Who went about doing Good."

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 - 1. Wealth and abject poverty drew a contrast with many.
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 - 5. In view of all this coupled with the great need as indicated we should not be surprised to read in Mark 10:28: "Even as the Son of man came to minister unto, and to give his life a ransom for many." See also Mark 10:45.
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 - 1. The life of Christ in thought and motives should be the end to which the high calling of the Christian points.
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- 3. PRAYERFULNESS: Luke 6:12: "...Jesus went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."
- 4. SIMPLICITY: "Jesus wept." John 11:35-36
- 5. QUALITY OF THE UNBELIEF OF OTHERS: Mark 3:5: "The man with the withered hand."
- 6. PERSEVERANCE: Acts 16:26: "who went about doing good."

THE SELF-SACRIFICE OF CHRIST

Philippians 2:6-8

1. Consider Christ's Equality with God. Verse 6; "Who being in the form of God."
 1. Paul refers to the state of Christ before he took the human form.
 2. "He thought it not robbery to be equal with God." Verse 6
 1. He was willing to lay aside this glory and make himself a servant.
 2. He was the eternal Son of the eternal Father, he had been co-equal with the Father from all eternity. John 1:1-5
 3. It was from this abode that he began his downward pilgrimage to save us.
2. Consider Christ (emptying) making himself of no reputation. Verse 7
 1. He exchanged the divine glory for human lowliness.
 2. He exchanged "the form of God" for "the form of a servant," of our own race, a race whose duty it isto serve God.
3. Consider his Humiliation Even To The Obedience of Death. Verse 8
 1. He not only lived a human life, he died a human death.
 2. He humbled himself:
 1. He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Verse 8
 2. We see his descent from the throne of God to the grave of man!
 3. In humbling himself he does not take the divine form, or even the for of an angel, but of lowly, sinful man. See Hebrews 5:8-11
4. Three words to consider. 2:6-8
 1. FORM
 1. Form means something positive. He was originally in the form of God.
 1. He had the essential attributes of God
 2. The Godhead was his by right but he emptied himself of this right.
 2. the "Form" of a servant.
 1. He now is in the "form" of a servant with the essential attributes of a servant. Literally a slave.
 2. LIKENESS
 1. Likeness signifies a relation to other things of the same condition.
 1. He was made in the likeness of men. How?
 2. By assuming such a body as theirs with all the attributes of man.
 3. FASHION
 1. Fashion relates to the sight and perception.
 1. He appeared as other men.
 2. He was made liable to suffering and hunger, even death as other men are.

THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST

Philippians 2:9-11

1. Christ humbled himself, wherefore God highly exalted him. Some immutable laws of God are:
 1. Matthew 23:12:
 1. "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased."
 2. "And he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."
 2. Gal. 6:7, 8
 1. The law of reaping and sowing:
 1. "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."
 2. "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption"
 3. "He that soweth to the Spirit shall reap of the Spirit life everlasting."
 3. Luke 6:38: "For with what judgment ye meet withall it shall be measured to you again."

THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST, Continued:Philippians 2:9-11

2. Christ's Exaltation Associated with three things. They are:
 1. His Resurrection from the dead.
 2. His ascension back to God.
 3. His sitting at God's right hand.
 4. The fixed law of exaltation illustrated by two hills side by side:
 1. There is the hill of personal pride: barren bleak and cloudy.
 2. There is the other hill of Divine dignity: grand, sunny, blooming in beauty, and abounding in good fruit.
 3. No soul can ascend the one without descending the other.
 1. He must go down the brow of selfishness step by step, till he reaches the dark valley of self-abnegation.
 2. Then he is ready to commence scaling the sublime altitudes of God's mountains of dignity and bliss.
 1. Example: Luke 19:5; "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down."
 2. He had to come down in order to go up.
3. The Four Steps In Christ's Exaltation. They are:
 1. A name which is above every name. Verse 9 Consider what a name is:
 1. A name is a revelation of what a person or thing is. Somebody said:
 1. Names are mysteries labeled while a thing not labelled (Named) is a mystery directly.
 2. What is the name above every name? It is:
 1. The name Jesus the signification of which is Saviour. Matt. 1:21
 2. At the name of Jesus the universe shall yet bow. Verse 10
 3. The Lordship of Jesus shall be universally acknowledged. Verses 10, 11
 4. The glory of the Father shall prove to be the last end of the whole plan. Verse 11
 1. "And that every tongue should confess..." Confess what?
 1. "That Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."

PERSONAL WORK FOR THE PHILIPPIANS. Philippians 2:12, 13

1. Reasons why we should be careful to do this work today.
 1. God commands it. Acts 2:40; 17:30
 2. He shows us how to do it. Micah 6:8
 3. It is a most profitable work. 2 Tim. 4:8
 4. Unless it is done, we are undone forever. Luke 13:3, 5
2. The spirit in which this work must be done. Verse 12
 1. With fear and trembling. It is a work which man must do for himself.
 1. No one can believe, repent and obey for you.
 2. Man's encouragement to do this work:
 1. God worketh in you both to will and to do. God is your helper.
 2. Your salvation is "his good pleasure." Verse 13

THE EXAMINATION OF THE BIBLE - Continued

1. The Four Steps in Christ's Exaltation

- 1. The name Jesus the identification of which is various, John 1:1
- 2. What is the name above every name? 1 Peter 3:22
- 3. Names are mysterious labels while a thing not labeled, John 1:1
- 4. A name is a revelation of what a person or thing is, 1 Peter 3:22
- 5. A name which is above every name, Verse 9 Consider what a name is!

2. The name of Jesus shall be universally acknowledged, Verse 10, 11

- 1. The glory of the Father shall prove to be the last end of the whole plan, Verse 11
- 2. And the Father's glory should confess, "God has what"
- 3. That Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father.

PERSONAL WORK FOR THE WILLING, Matthew 2:12, 13

- 1. Reasons why we should be careful to do this work today.
 - 1. God commands it, Acts 2:40, 41:14
 - 2. He shows us how to do it, Matthew 23:8
 - 3. It is a most profitable work, 1 Tim. 4:8
 - 4. Unless it is done, we are undone forever, Luke 17:33
- 2. The spirit in which this work must be done, Verse 12
- 3. With love and freedom, it is a work which man must do for himself.
 - 1. We can believe, repent and obey for you.
 - 2. We can encourage you to do this work.
 - 3. God works in you both to will and to do, God is your helper.
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THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND ITS EFFECT UPON THE WORLD AND PAUL'S JOY. Philippians 2:14-18

1. The position of Christians in the world. Verse 15
 1. "In the midst of a a crooked perverse nation. Verse 15
 1. It may not be a very comfortable position to occupy, but it is a very important one and could be a very useful one. WHY?
 2. Our very best position is to have opportunities of benefiting others.
2. The Christian life and its effect upon the world. Verses 14-16
 1. How this effect may be obscured:
 1. By murmurings and disputings. Verse 14. How these may arise:
 1. From our experience of a disagreeable lot.
 2. From an unthankful spirit. Job 2:10; "What shall we receive good at the hand of God; and shall we not receive evil?"
 2. Rather than murmuring and disputings Christian should be:
 1. Content with such things as we have. Heb. 13:5
 2. Godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Tim. 6:6
 2. Such murmurings and disputings should be avoided because:
 1. We know not where they may end.
 2. Such things more often arise from pride and ignorance. 1 Tim. 6:3-5
 3. Because they disturb others as well as ourselves. Luke 21:19; "In your patience possess ye your souls."
 4. Because they produce confusion and evil works. James 3:16; "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."
 5. Because if we live in peace, God will be with us. 2 Cor. 13:11; "Be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."
3. The duty and mission of Christians. Verses 15, 16
 1. Shining as lights in the world. Verse 5. See also Matt. 5:14
 2. The character of Christians determines the quality of their light.
 1. We might have the very best of oil but if the lamp be out of order the flame will flicker and the light will be dull.
 2. We may have the Word of Life but we will only hold it forth clearly to the world when our own spiritual life is healthy.
 2. "Holding forth the word of life." Verse 16 Two things involved: ^{see 2-9-69}
 1. The instrument.
 1. "The Word of life."
 2. "The Word of life" does three things:
 1. It reveals. It is a mirror of the soul. James 1:22-25
 2. It nourishes. We grow by it. 1 Pet. 2:2
 3. It perfects the Divine life. Phil. 2:15; "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke."
 2. The method.
 1. "Holding forth." Verse 16. Why "hold it forth/"
 1. Hold it forth as a standard by which others may be safely directed in their march.
 2. Hold it forth as a light in the midst of surrounding darkness.
 3. Hold it forth as the lighthouse sends forth that flaming light that directs the mariner on his way
 4. Paul's joy. Verses 16-18
 1. "I joy and rejoice with you all." Verse 17 ^{see Heb. 10:34}
 2. He expects to rejoice in the day of Christ that he has not run in vain, neither labored in vain. Verse 16

Lesson to learn; Nothing is more fatal to the clear shining of the Christian light that quarrels (Murmurings-Disputes) among Christians.

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THE MISSION OF TIMOTHY

Philippians 2:19-24

1. PAUL'S DESIRE TO SEND TIMOTHY TO PHILIPPI Verse 19
 1. He hopes to send Timothy almost immediately.
 2. Paul hoped that he might come shortly to Philippi. Verse 24
2. REASONS FOR SENDING TIMOTHY
 1. That he might bring Paul information as to the welfare of the Philippians. Their welfare would mean much joy to Paul. Verse 19
 2. Paul had "no man like minded, who will naturally care for your state." Verse 20
 3. They knew Timothy personally. Acts 16:1-40
3. Timothy's qualifications for the trip to the Philippians.
 1. He is like minded with Paul concerning the state of the Philippians.
 2. Because of this Timothy will seek no selfish ends but will be ready to do all he can in helping and encouraging the Philippians in the Christian life.
4. THE TWOFOLD OBJECT IN SENDING TIMOTHY
 1. To comfort his own heart. Verse 19
 1. "That I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state."
 2. To give the Philippians proper guidance. Verse 20
 1. "I have no man like minded who will naturally care for your state."
5. WHY OTHERS WERE NOT SENT Verse 21
 1. "For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."
 2. A contrast:
 1. It would not be difficult, perhaps, to find a man who would go to Philippi and preach to them.
 2. But it would be most difficult to find a man who would visit them with that same tender interest and self-sacrificing love which Paul had for the Philippians and which he knew to be in Timothy.
6. "For all seek their own." Verse 21
 1. Millions in every age seek their own and not Christ. Why?
 1. Self is the center and circumference of all their aims and activities
 2. Self is not only uncrucified, but is very much in the ascendancy.
 3. Very few seek the "things of Jesus Christ," such as truth, benevolence, holiness of life along with entire consecration to the Divine will.

EPAPHRODITUS THE LINK BETWEEN PAUL AND THE PHILIPPIANS Philippians 2:25-30

1. Consider the apostles estimate of the character of Epaphroditus
 1. In relationship to Paul: Verse 25
 1. "My brother." This would mark the common sympathy that bound them together.
 2. In relation to the Philippians: Verse 25 Verse
 1. "Your messenger." "To supply your lack of service toward me." 30
2. Epaphroditus the Christian What kind of a Christian was he?
 1. Common sympathy: "He longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because ye had heard that he had been sick." Verse 26
 2. Common work: "My brother and companion in labor." Verse 25
 1. The early Christians both male and female seemed to work together.
 3. Common warfare: "And fellowsoldier." Verse 25
 1. WE have to fight to conquer the world's evils and a great battle it is. No doubt Epaphroditus had "put on the whole armour of God." Ephesians 6:11-18

THE MISSION OF TIMOTHY

Phil 2:19-20

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 - 2. But it would be most difficult to find a man who would visit them with that same tender interest and self-sacrificing love which Paul had for the Philippians and which he knew to be in Timothy.

"For all seek their own." Verse 21

- 1. Timothy in every age seek their own and not Christ's. Why?
 - 1. Self is the center and circumference of all their aims and activities.
 - 2. Self is not only uncontrolled, but is very much in the assembly.
 - 3. Very few seek the "things of Jesus Christ" such as truth, benevolence, holiness of life along with entire consecration to the Divine will.

ESTABLISHING THE LINK BETWEEN PAUL AND THE PHILIPPIANS Verse 22-23

- 1. Consider the apostolic estimate of the character of Epaphroditus
 - 1. In relationship to Paul: Verse 22
 - 2. "My brother." This would mark the common sympathy that bound them together.
 - 3. In relation to the Philippians: Verse 23
 - 4. "Your messenger." "To supply your lack of service toward me." Verse 23
- 2. Establishing the Christian What kind of a Christian was he?
 - 1. Common sympathy: "He longed after you all, and was full of heaviness because ye had heard that he had been sick." Verse 22
 - 2. Common work: "My brother and companion in labor." Verse 23
 - 3. Common warfare: "and fellow-soldier." Verse 23
- 3. Common warfare: "and fellow-soldier." Verse 23
 - 1. We have to fight to conquer the world's evils and a great battle it is. No doubt Epaphroditus had "one on the whole army" of God.