

50-Philippians-02-Transcript

two Henderson County sheriff's deputies had been standing by in case of trouble rush to that door trying to stop the pushing and shoving that started over the votes were knocked to the ground and stepped off then the violence moved to the parking lot at the height of the bra more than 20 sheriff's deputies and Fletcher police had responded to the scene breaking up so much fun welcome back to part two of these chappy study of the book of Philippians and we're going to study chapter 2 today and what you just witnessed was a church for all where the pastor actually ended up arrested and you heard this woman Josie Gilliard saying these people are not of God they don't understand this is God's house and those are very very profound words that these people cannot be of God this is God's house they don't understand and in fact many congregations are at risk of falling into this kind of discord and the book or the letter to the Philippians is all about avoiding this tragedy within the congregation so that's what we're going to study today the instruction to the Philippians particularly the instructions in chapter 2 that represent this blueprint for a healthy congregation so what we'll do now is we'll just a quick prayer and then we'll get right into the study for this evening Heavenly Father we come before you and just thank you so much for the work that you did in the Apostle Paul and the writings that we have from this apostle and particularly this letter to the Brethren and Philip Philip I we pray

father that you'll be with us this evening you'll help us to understand the instructions that you have in this very very powerful and profound letter the praise you Lord and we ask this in Jesus Holy Name Amen so chapter two of the book of Philippians begins like this if there be therefore any consolation in Christ if any comfort of love if any fellowship of the Spirit if any bowels and mercies fulfill you my joy that you'd be like-minded having the same mind being of one Accord so end of one mind you know when I read that especially verse one I don't know what it means you know if there be any consolation in Christ any comfort fellowship the spirit bowels and mercies what does that mean and to understand this we really have to read it in context and remember we covered last week and this is really critical to unlocking the meaning of the letter to the Philippians is it begins in verse 1 with paul and timothy writing to all the saints in christ jesus which are at Philippi with the bishops and the deacons so it's a letter to the community and often we can forget this verse verse 1 we kind of have scriptural amnesia as we work through the scripture as we forget what came before and so we begin chapter 2 forgetting who the letters to and then many times we apply it to ourselves even within chapter 1 when you look at verse 6 he says being confident of this very thing that he which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ by the time we get to verse 6 we've forgotten that this is a letter to a community and we read this and we apply it to ourselves personally and that's a big

mistake

to really understand this book we have to every time that the apostle uses the word you in this epistle it's plural it's the plural form of you in the Greek language in English we might say y'all all of you it's all y'all that's how we should really translate the word you in Philippians 2 or even the entire epistle actually but in terms of context of Philippians 2 let's go back to what we covered the last part of what we covered last week in Chapter 1 and it begins here in verse 27 and verse 27 is really the focal point of the letter so all of the introduction that we covered last week was leading into verse 27 and everything that we're going to cover today is really a commentary or an exposition on this instruction in verse 27 so verse 27 says this only let your conduct be as it becomes the gospel of Christ and that right there is the focal point of the letter that the Brethren at Philippi all of them with the beach with the Deacons and the bishops are to ensure that their conduct matches the gospel of Christ and everything that we read last week was leading into this instruction and everything that we're going to cover today is an exposition of this instruction so that and we knew that we covered last week that Paul was on the verge of being sentenced and he wasn't sure if he was going to be sentenced to death or if he was gonna be set free and he was pretty confident that he would be set free that God still had work for him to do with the Brethren in Philippi so he's pretty confidently to be set free and he would return to Philippians but not a hundred percent there was a very clear possibility that he might have been put to death and so

he was prepared for that as well and he was really joyful whichever way it would go for him so he says here that whether I come and see you or else I'm absent I may hear of your affairs that you stand fast in one spirit with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel this is the instruction to the Philippians and this is what's going to avoid their congregation which is at risk of breaking down and ending up in a brawl with factions in order to prevent that is one instruction the one thing that they have to get right is that they are to work together to stand fast in one spirit with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel and when they do this they will not be terrified by the adversaries they'll be able to follow that instruction by Jesus Christ that says to not be afraid to bear witness for him without fear and so if they can get this right they will be infused with the Holy Spirit and like Paul be able to witness for Christ with boldness and without any fear and in nothing terrified by your adversaries which is to the adversaries an evident token of their perdition so so the fact that the Brethren are standing fast in one spirit with one mind and their striving together for the faith of the gospel that is evidence of those who take an adversarial position to the church those who persecute the church it's our love for one another that is evidence and evidence is a legal term this is the evidence that's going to be entered at their judgment of their destruction this is how they know they're doing wrong that they're despising them which are good and they know in their conscience they're doing wrong but this

same unity is evidence to you of your salvation that this is how you know of your salvation and that of God for unto you it's been given it's been gifted this is a gift from Christ and in the behalf of Christ not only to believe on him it's not just that you have been given this gift of the Holy Spirit so that you can believe in Christ but you've also been given the comforter so that you can suffer for his sake but also to suffer for his sake how you're having the very same conflict which you saw in me so the same persecution that descended on me the Apostle Paul you're now facing it as well and you're part of this gifted community that is allowed not only to believe on Christ but also to suffer for his sake and now you're hearing about this in me as well so this critical introduction then to we should really have chapter breaks we should go from here straight without any chapter break straight into the next verse which says if there be therefore any consolation in Christ if there's any comfort of love if any fellowship of the Spirit if any bowels of mercies then fulfill my joy and the joy was in chapter 1 that we would that the Corinthian the Philippians would work together strive together for the unity of the faith for the faith of the gospel working together within one spirit in one mind that that's the joy is a little concerned writing from how he's in house-arrested he's a bit concerned about the Philippians and and he just he really loves to me rejoined there his crown in his joy but the the reports that he's hearing have him somewhat concerned he's confident they're gonna work through this but the way for them to really

fulfill his joy is to come together in unity and love and so what he's saying here when he says if there be therefore any consolation in Christ if any comfort of love this is like saying you know if there's any water in the ocean could you pour a glass and quench your brother's thirst so of course there's water and there's tons of water in the ocean so if there's any comfort in Christ I mean Christ says that he will send us the comforter and so so in within the body of Christ of course there's comfort because it's Christ's body and price love the body so much that he came and he sacrificed himself for it so of course there's consolation in Christ and of course there's comfort in agape and of course there's a fellowship of the spirit and in bowels and mercies this is really talking about depth of feeling and again the depth of love that God and Christ have for the church is in the church and so if this is there then we'll fill my joy and be like-minded have that single mind having the same love being of one Accord and and this brethren is really really critical Paul is saying is so but when you see this on my persecution and Mabon do any good for the church for all the world it's got to be within this culture that is people in basements find that we really are seeing that we're seeing a time of indifference to to what's happening to Christians around the world here we see this her Amba Herron Bailey guerilla that was shocked a very unfortunate very tragic in order to save a young boy's life and and now there's questions about whether the mother was negligent and she could have been but

also I think any parent knows it's possible that you take your eye off your child just for a moment and then you can lose that you can lose that so what we need to do now is realize that here here he says you know a man's true character is judged by the way he treats his fellow animals fellow animals men is made in God's image and a man's true characters is gonna be seen in how he treats his fellow human beings made in God's image now the Bible is clear that a righteous man regards the life of his beast but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel

I mean Hitler had a pet cat just fifty love animals doesn't mean that you are truly a merciful person and we need people of Paul McCartney stature and and others like Barack Obama people who have a voice to speak on behalf of Christians and say and say look what's happening in the world to Christians and and what we're seeing now is a level of a difference we're seeing a level of indifference toward Christian software and it starts it's indifference but eventually it ends in hostility as long as our governments are sympathetic to Christians were okay but what if our society claw

this is footage that we're seeing all over Europe all over you we're seeing this jacquard which we've seen 1,400 years and it's relentless and this is how civilizations so so if you don't stand for something how much create a police officer to put up with the story back when did I say you know I you know you can't you don't pay me to put my life on the line or to sacrifice my life if they don't actually believe so when the environment changes we racial and here look at the

scripture in John the says here Marvel
not my brethren if the world hatred we
know this is so so Paul says
the evidence of their destruction
the lovely
but evidence of our salvation is the
matter
you know for conflict that we have
passed from death Italy what this is
where the conflict the preference
between end of audio
he that loveth not his brother abides
exactly this equality
no murderer has eternal life so readily
if there's any us let's go back to now
let's go back to it the chapter here in
Philippians

=====Quiz# 1

so the world is becoming
hostile that's certainly at this time
the Philippians were under intense
persecution and when they come inside
the church this is where they should
find comfort of the Brethren should not
come into the congregation and find
their brawling with one another and and
we see here in Philippians cracks in the
unity and Paul is writing to them say
you've got to fix this don't allow this
to unravel don't allow the conflicts
that are inside the congregation to
cause the whole congregation to unravel
and particularly when we get to chapter
4 we'll see that there's two women you
Lydia and Sint Ikki that clearly there's
a problem between them and Paul is
addressing this and saying you you can't
allow this inside the community because
this is this is where we need to find
comfort this is where we need to find
love this is where we need to find
encouragement in Christ and so because
we know that these things are true and
empowered by the Spirit fulfill his joy

and be like-minded having the same the
having the same love and being of one
Accord and of one mind so now he goes on
in verse three and he says this and
again there's this there's this problem
that's brewing inside the congregation
he's giving them a blueprint to become a
model congregation they're almost there
but of course when Satan sees unity when
Satan sees love when Satan sees progress
he's going to be in there as well and
that's what's happening to the
Philippians as Satan is in there working
his agenda and then this wonderful
community is at risk of unraveling so
here he says let nothing be done through
strife or the
Laurie and we can kind of put a footnote
on this and say obviously Paul is aware
of what's happening there and there are
there is some thing happening that's
being done out of vanity and again if we
call out and he calls out these two
women you audience in Turkey something's
wrong there and Paul is saying it's not
of God
it's of vanity so if you're going to
correct this if you're going to correct
this problem and not have your
congregation descend into a brawl then
this is the formula let nothing nothing
be done through strife or vainglory
instead in lowliness of mind let each
esteem the other better than themselves
and this is all now an exposition on
verse 27 that verse where he said strive
together
b.o.b like-minded of one mind of one
spirit and fulfill my joy this is how to
do it this is how to do it so have
lowliness of mind and in that lowliness
of mind
yo dia consider some tikki better than
you in Sin City consider yo do better

than you and so if you if you have this formula you will never allow the devil to get into your congregation and to the point where people are looking at your congregation and saying this these people are not of God this is God's house they don't understand this can at least cannot be God's true disciples when Christ himself says by this shall all men know you if you love one another so so we this is how we love one another look not every man on his own things but every man also on the things of others let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus and I should have said I apologize I'm gonna go through this because there's so much theological freight that's carried in this this passage that I don't even think I'll get through the whole chapter so I'm not gonna pause for Q&A just recommend if I just go through it and then when the study is done I'll go on the Q&A and answer questions then so here he's saying here's the formula for success - he wants them to be like minded but what kind of mind the mind of Christ this is how we can be like minded let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus and now begins what's called the the the Christ him and his called the Carmen Christie and this is a known him at the time which Paul then integrates into his instruction to the Philippians and he says this so again this is I think this is primarily about this crack in the unity of the Brethren and and there's something going on with these two very important women in the congregation the audience in Turkey and you know it could be as simple as you know simcha he is the newcomer and everybody knows that the idea makes the coffee and she makes

the best coffee and now since tikkis
come along and she's got she makes
a nicer pot of coffee and and and and
you know yogi is like don't they know
that I'm the coffee maker believe me
I've seen conflict over the most
ridiculous things in the congregation's
and really what Paul is saying is that
nonsensical conflict is really about
vanity it's really about reputation
you're trying to restore your reputation
your calling brethren the side is that
you won't believe what this person said
to me or said about me or did to me and
it's all about me me me me me and my
reputation and Paul saying well let this
mind be in you the mind that was in
Christ Jesus now you might have had a
great reputation and somebody came along
and spoiled it so you came down from
your height and nobody wants to be
shamed but something happened to me or
to you and we've come down
not and Paul saying okay you're upset
about being earlier you're upset about
coming down a notch let me inform you
about the mind of Christ he was in the
form of God in other words he was in the
God family in the Godhead and although
he was in the Godhead he didn't think it
robbery to be equal with God in other
words you know the Word was God in the
beginning was the word and the Word was
with God and the Word was God
so there were these two beings the
father and the logos and they were
together and that is such a high state
of glory when when Christ was with his
disciples in John 17 he says to to the
father to restore to him to the glory
that he had with God from the from the
beginning before the world began and so
this was a phenomenal glory that Christ
had but he didn't think it was something

to season to hold on to he wasn't like
Adam who when Satan made the offer hey
you can be like God
HCC's that he wanted Adam and Eve they
wanted that no he had this but it wasn't
something to hold on to because of his
love and his consideration for us he
left that he left that glory and he came
down he he came down and I would say the
understatement of the of the of ever
that'd be a biggest understatement could
possibly make it say that Christ came
down a notch you know he came from God
God level the godhood to mankind
said instead he didn't he didn't hang on
to this instead he made himself of no
reputation what was that the idea that
you were saying about your reputation
what was that a sense Hickey that you
were saying about your reputation why
you have to stand your ground I want you
to stand fast together because I don't
understand this talk about your
reputation
because Christ made himself of no
reputation and took upon him not only
did he come down from the Godhead and
come into his creation as a man but when
he became a man he didn't become a great
King and even that would be a real
humiliation for him to come from the
Godhead into the creation as a great
King he came as a slave and took upon
him the lowest level of mankind that he
could possibly take that of a slave and
he was made in the likeness of men and
being found in fashion as a man so not
only now is he lowly as a slave than
just a regular man that nobody really
regards in addition to that or moreover
he humbled himself and became obedient
unto death now you know if I die this
day is no big deal I I've earned the
death penalty but for the Creator to

come into his creation and the Creator who has in the beginning was the word and the Word was with God and the Word was God so he who comes from eternity past comes into his creation and then faces non-existence and so imagine the the this is never this is unprecedented he is going to go out of existence in order to offer eternity to us and so he faces this prospect of ceasing to exist and he pleads with God that if there's any other way that we can do this nevertheless not my will but yours and so he was obedient unto death and then and then if that's not enough it goes on is even more this mind of Christ it's not just any death it is the crucifixion this form of death was so incredibly shameful that the word crucifixion shouldn't even be uttered by a Roman citizen in fact Paul would be killed by the Roman Empire but because he was a Roman citizen he wouldn't be crucified instead he was beheaded so this is just this is just the most humiliating form of death and this is what our creator did came into his creation as a man not a king not a great Emperor not a great ruler not a great person just a regular man in the form of a slave was obedient unto death and not just any death the most horrible the most shameful of death what was that you do you were saying about your reputation what was that austan ticket you're saying about your reputation how about if you let this mind be in you that that you really humiliate yourself out of love for your brother and your sister because if we don't love one another we're liars we could have all the doctrinal knowledge we could be a doctrinal encyclopedia it doesn't matter

good doctrine leads to good behavior so
here in verse nine he says therefore
because of this mind of Christ because
of his willingness to humble himself God
steps it God has highly exalted him and
given him a name which is above every
name so we can fight for our own
reputation but then we're on our own
or we can humble ourselves and then God
will lift us up God is merciful to the
humble he lifts up the humble they cast
down the pride the proud so yo dia and
Cynthia if you're gonna ruin this
congregation because of your conflict
and your reputation and standing your
ground don't expect God to step in and
lift you up but if you have the mind of
Christ God will do for you what he did
for Christ Christ is the pioneer of our
salvation he is the model he is showing
us the way that we should be so because
of this mind that was in Christ
therefore God has highly exalted him God
the Father has done this he has highly
exalted Christ and and how high has
he exalted Christ well listen he's given
him a name which is above every name
there is no name anywhere not only on
the planet there's no name anywhere in
the universe that is above the name of
Christ so Christ now has a name
that's above every name now is that all
no that's not all that at this name of
Jesus every knee will bow I'm so honored
that we bowed to Christ out of love
some are going to be compelled to about
the price before their destruction but
every knee will bow of things in heaven
so every being in heaven will bow to
Christ and worship him and everything in
earth everything in earth will bow to
Christ and worship him and everything
under the earth all those who have
already died they're gonna come back to

life and they're gonna face Jesus Christ
and they're gonna bow to him this is
what God the Father has done why because
he was obedient unto death and He
fulfilled the father's will as that lamb
that was sacrificed from the foundation
of the world this was their plan to
redeem mankind and that every tongue
should confess not not just Christian
tongues every tongue in heaven in earth
under the earth when they come back to
life everybody is going to confess that
Jesus Christ is kurios not not kurios
as incurable kurios the Lord Yahweh
every tongue will confess that Jesus
Christ is Yahweh the I am the everliving
one the word from the beginning the love
us and all of that when when the whole
creation worships Christ that is to the
glory of God the Father that everything
comes under Christ and Christ turns
everything over to the Father and this
whole family plan of the event and
understanding the significance of the
God family will be understood to the
glory of God all creation will glorify
God now if this hymn that is recounted
here
doesn't show us the divinity of Christ
we're missing we're missing the whole
plot Christ is Yahweh and in fact this
hymn is quoting from Isaiah
it's quoting from the Old Testament

=====Quiz# 2

and if we look at Isaiah 45 where it's
quoting from he says this assemble
yourselves and come draw near together
you that are escaped of the nations they
have no knowledge that set up the wood
of their graven image and praying to a
god that cannot save so everybody's got
their gods but everybody's gonna know
that Yahweh is God so so come on
everybody this is this is now at every

knee will bow so everybody that's got
their idols and their different gods
it's now time to come to the true God
tell you and bring them near yes let
them take counsel together who has
declared it who has declared this from
ancient time and who has told it from
that time have not I the Lord and in the
Greek this would be kurios and there is
no God else beside me I am the only God
Yahweh a just God and a savior that's
why he came into his creation for the
purpose of salvation there is none
beside me Yahweh is all there's no other
god but Yahweh Yahweh is a family name
and Christ said he came to reveal the
father so the logos the word that the
God that was communicating with mankind
was the word and he came into his
creation and he says to reveal the
father nobody knew the father beforehand
so this is Christ look unto me and be
you saved all the ends of the earth the
whole earth that he eventually gonna be
ante Christic but the whole earth is
going to come to Christ and bow for I am
God and there is none else so this is a
absolute statement of the monotheism of
Christianity there is none else I have
sworn by myself
the word has gone out of my mouth in
righteousness and we know when God
speaks he doesn't have to abrogate what
he says that this is his word it's gone
out of his mouth it will be accomplished
and he shall not return that unto me
every knee shall bow and unto me every
tongue shall swear and this is what that
hymn in Philippians 2 that we were just
looking at this is what it's quoting
that you hear in verse 11 or verse 10
that at the name of Jesus who is Yahweh
every knee should bow of things in
heaven and things in earth and things

under the earth and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father who he came to reveal so all of this now is is commentary on that instruction in verse 27 of chapter 1 that they are to strive together in one spirit and in one mind and making sure that their behavior is compliant with and reflects the gospel of Christ and so now he's explaining to them the mind of Christ this is what it means to be like-minded it really can't be like minded fully and fully unified without the mind of Christ and so now he goes on to verse 12 and he says this therefore so because of this instruction to strive together in one spirit in in love in unity and to ensure their behavior becomes the gospel and in order to do that to have the mind of Christ so that as brethren come into the body they can experience the comfort and the consolation and the encouragement and the depth of feeling of love that Christ has for them through the body because of all of this that has proceeded from verse 27 leading right up to verse 11 of chapter 2 therefore because of all of this my beloved as you have always obeyed not as in my presence only but now much more in my absence work out your own salvation with fear and trembling and this is again another passage like verse 6 of chapter 1 where we get scriptural amnesia and we forget everything that we've just heard and we take this pull it out of context and make it very personal because you know it feels good so it's telling me okay I've got to work on my own salvation that actually that interpretation makes no sense he's just finished pleading with them to have the mind of Christ which is a mind that doesn't care about

itself that esteems the other is higher
than itself that sacrifices itself for
the welfare of others
so after having just said that would it
now make sense for him to say oh yeah
and by the way just focus on your own
salvation it's just if this this is what
we do we pulpit the scripture out of
context if you actually look at it in
the Greek then what you see here and if
you understand the Greek what jumps out
at you is the so haha stay there for a
gotta move my beloved this is thorough
it's the the letters to the to the
community so my beloved all of you and
then he says here as you've in my
absence
now much more in my presence not so as
you obey me in my absence now it's even
critical now as you think about this is
presence as your baby
Purusha as you obey me in my presence
now much more in my absence it's
critical that you obey me and he says
here with with full Babu okay trauma
with phobia and trauma with with fear
and trembling you need to fulfill this
instruction what how does this make
sense and then what I really want to
focus on here is he have tone your
salvation your is plural your y'all's
salvation your collective salvation your
communal salvation work out your
communal salvation and then this word
the kattedagat esta which is to work out
its plural the verb has to agree with
the subject and so it's a plural verb
agreeing with the plural subject which
is a capital which is my beloved my
beloved community you need to wish this
verse 27 of chapter 1 you've got to
strive together for this salvation so if
we actually look at chapter 27 again if
we look at chapter 27 again he says here

that I may hear of your affairs that you stand fast
in one spirit with one mind and this is what he's spending the rest of the chapter 2 it's positive or explaining that it's the mind of Christ striving together work out your salvation and they says that to do that with fear and trembling
so it says here phobia and trauma so again this goes back to chapter 1 where he shows us that evidence of the destruction of those who persecute the church is the love that we have for one another but what if we don't have that love for one another what if instead of love for one another we actually hate one another we despise one another we we subjugate one another to see how great we are then isn't that evidence of our own destruction isn't that proof that we're liars so this is where the fear and trauma comes from this is where the fear and trembling comes from that anybody who offends or hurts one of these little ones that offense and that hurt is going to be entered into court as evidence against the offender and that's why when they persecute the church when they were persecuting the church at Philippi Paul is encouraging them and say you continue to bear witness without fear don't be terrorized you bear witness of the the gospel of Christ because anybody who persecutes you it's evidence of their destruction but as you're tuning this brethren please don't let this backfire on you where you're then persecuting each other and that's evidence of your destruction so you've got to work out as a community work out your own salvation
I cannot Paul is in prison he's saying to them I can't come to you you've

always obeyed me in my presence now it's much more critical that you obey me in my absence so that I can hear of how things are going with you and I can hear that you're striving together Keira gesta you're working out your salvation together and so that's that's really what he means here and so therefore my beloved plural as you plural have always obeyed plural not as in my presence only singular but now much more in my absence singular you plural as a community work out your own plural salvation singular it's one common salvation for all of us that's why we need to have one mind one spirit one love because there's one salvation one Lord one God one father one salvation but collectively we need to work it out and as things happen you know you hear people they will they're not talking to a brother or sister for years or you they're there they're at each other's throats in the parking lot brawling or they're done with that congregation they're now going to go to another congregation that's disobedient to this imperative of working out your salvation putting on the mind of Christ humiliate you there's nothing we can do to humiliate ourselves to humble ourselves as much as Christ why because we're not coming from the Godhead into creation we're not coming from eternity we're not we don't have eternity unless Christ gives it to us so we're just coming from nothing and and who are we to them want to exalt ourselves we need to humble ourselves and in due time God will lift it up lift lift us up so he says here in verse 13 that we need to be doing this in verse 12 with fear and trembling we would never want to be in in God's courtroom and brethren are

saying and here's how here's how he hurt me and here's how he offended me and and they wouldn't ask for forgiveness and me really traumatized me that's evidence of our destruction just as it is of those who hate Christ because if we hate our brother we hate Christ so we want the evidence of our salvation is the bowels of Mercy

the consolation the comfort that is in Christ that we extend to our brother that that Christ's third is able to work through us so that the brothers and sisters experience God's love now as we yield and were obedient to this command it is God which not only to will but also to do of his good pleasure so this is a supernatural thing this is humanly it's impossible when we're hurt we retaliate but here spiritually through the Spirit of God as his Spirit works in us in the fruits of the spirit work in us and we begin to develop that that love joy peace that that faithfulness that gentleness that that that tenderness this this is God works in us so that we actually desire the mind of Christ we actually did

like Christ we actually desire the welfare of our brother or a sister Christ the Christ loved us while we were his enemies we hated him

I personally can tell you I hated Christ I wanted nothing to do with Christ and while I was in that state he loved me I was his enemy and he loved me and you were his enemy and he loved you can we not love each other put on the mind of Christ and create a community that is so comforted so loving that the Brethren just always want to be there the Brethren just always want to be together what a tragedy that a congregation might be together only

because they have to they come as late
as they possibly can one minute before
the service begins and one minute after
the service is over they're gone why
because they hate it they know it's a
command to come together so they do that
they're fulfilling the command but the
whole experience is excruciating ly
painful and they just want to get out of
there as quickly as they can
oh what a tragedy it's got to be the
other way that there is consolation in
Christ there is comfort in agape there's
encouragement and and it's just so
wonderful to be together that you know
what we come early we come an hour early
and we stay hours afterward why just the
joy of experience this experiencing this
supernatural love that Christ has for us
that is shed through shed abroad through
us that that flows through us that is
God's work and that again ties back to
verse 6 of chapter 1 that the poll is
confident of this very thing that he God
which has begun a good work in you you
the community that he will perform it
until the day of Jesus Christ so we just
have to allow God to do his work that
it's him that works through us
and so now here in verse 14 very
difficult this is all an extension of
how to do this how to have a community
that that fulfills chapter verse 1 of
chapter 2 that there is consolation in
Christ there is comfort in in agape
there there is mercy there is there is
this depth of love and feeling for the
Brethren

=====Quiz# 3

this is how we get there we
don't we don't allow Satan to get in he
says this do all things without
murmuring and disputing so there's
something going on at Philippi and and

Paul just loves this congregation so much and that's the pastor for this congregation is hearty you just feel it's hard going out to them saying don't blow it
you're my crown and my joy don't let me hear that I've labored in vain that the whole community has now descended into a church brawl
don't do this protect the community from this and allow your love for one another Allah allow the Holy Spirit to work through you supernaturally so that you have this love for one another and as you have this love for one another that's your confidence that's how you know that you have passed from death into life why because you have this supernatural spiritual energy in you that just enables you to love the Brethren and not you don't love your reputation and you'll sacrifice the Brethren for your reputation and I'll sacrifice the Brethren's character in order to preserve my reputation it's the other way around
I'm willing to be humbled I'm willing to be humiliated as long as my brother is okay as long as my sister Agape I really care about the welfare of my brothers and my sisters and that is supernatural that's the work that he has begun in us and Paul is confident here with the Philippines and and I think Christ in us that will get there will do this will allow the spirit to work through us so do everything without murmur if we find ourselves new memory pulling people aside to a corner and saying you know I wouldn't do things like this anything we've all heard it
that's disobedient and it's it's putting wedges in the unity it's opening little cracks for Satan to come and kick the

door down and come in and cause the community to descend into a brawl but we can protect the community here's the blueprint we don't murmur and we don't dispute we're constantly functioning from this agape mindset or we're thinking of others now when we do this remember go back to verse was it was at 27 or 28 actually further down yes 28 that when we have this unity and we're striving together we're not terrified by our adversaries why because we're absolutely confident that we've passed from death into life you can kill me as Christ said I can't be afraid because the worst you can do is kill kill me and that's it then then it's over God can lift me up out of the grave and grant me and you eternal life and I know that he will do that I know that I've passed from death into life why because I love the Brethren that is the evidence to me that I have eternal life because I love the Brethren so here he says that it's evidence to them of their perdition their destruction but it's evidence to us of our salvation so now he tells us to do everything without murmuring and disputing to put on this mind of Christ why that we may be blameless and harmless be as wise as serpents but as harmless as doves do not we cannot afford to come before the judgment throne of God and there's evidence that we have been destructive to the body of Christ if we've done it to the least of these as brethren we've done it unto Christ so here when we behave in this way this we follow this blueprint we become blameless and harmless these are legal terms we're coming before the judgment throne of Christ judgment is now on the house of God that you may be blameless and

harmless the sons of God without rebuke
in the midst of a crooked and perverse
nation that evil men will wax worse and
worse and in the middle of this societal
degradation we are finding that we are
developing a love and a character and a
mind like Christ in the middle of all
this perversity among whom you shine as
lights in the world a city that set on a
hill cannot be hid so so God wants us to
be his witnesses he wants to put us on a
hill that people will look and just say
Wow

surely these must be the followers of
Christ we've never seen this kind of
love before by this shall all men know
that you're my disciples if you love one
another so here he says among whom you
shine as lights in the world holding
forth the word of life that I may
rejoice in the day of Christ that I have
not run in vain neither labored in vain
this is pretty serious here is this
wonderful congregation that Paul is
longing to be released if he will as
soon as if he doesn't know how to go
with him

he's joyful either way he thinks he
could be sacrificed he could be put to
death but if he's released he can't wait
to come to this community but he's
hearing reports that are causing him
concern and now he's writing to them and
saying you know what I can't get to you
and you've always obeyed me you're just
a wonderful congregation you've always
been compliant now that's in my presence
now in my absence you really have to
work this out this is critical your
health your salvation is at risk if you
say you love God but you hate your
brother you're a liar and you're a
murderer and we know that no murderer
has eternal life please please please

work this out together as a community so that it says that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain neither labored in vain so he's done a lot of work in this congregation and what he's saying is I'm worried I'm really concerned here that the way things are going it seems that all of that work that I did to plant you as a congregation to establish you as a church if I'm getting the sense that you're going to unravel the congregation is going to descend into this church brawl and you're gonna lose your salvation yes

not once saved always safe you're at risk you've got to you've got to approach this with with fear phobia and trembling trauma you cannot be attacking each other and think that you're going to be in the kingdom so please please please work this out so that by this by your example of a model community all men will know that you're Christ disciples so so Paul has really worked hard in this congregation and he's worried now that all of that effort could be in vain he wants it instead to be his crown in his joy those that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the Stars and and Paul is seeing this community as part of the evidence of his work part of the fruit of his labor and his crown and his joy so he goes on to say now he's hoping to come to them but it could be it could be put to death so it says here yes and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith so because I was preaching the gospel on laboring in Christ for you I could be put to death so if I'd be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith
I rejoice this is what the Holy Spirit

does that it's inexplicable that we can be facing severe trial and we have joy we have joy because the comforter is comforting us and it's enabling us to testify of Christ to be his witnesses his faithful witnesses and no matter what we face whether death or life it's all in Christ and so here he says he rejoices and he rejoices with all of them who are also facing the same persecution that he's facing for the same cause also you joy and rejoice with me so I'm rejoicing with you you're rejoicing with me but I could be the Erie says I offered upon the sacrifice so he could be beheaded his blood drains out of the Nets that's like a sacrifice to the pagan gods but I trust in the Lord verse 19 I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy shortly unto you that I also may be of good comfort when I know your state so he's gonna send Timothy and he wants to hear that they've got it they got the blueprint and they are now working together striving together verse 27 of chapter one that's the focal point that is the instruction strive together and make sure that your conduct is becoming of the gospel of Christ so he's given them all of this elaboration of that instruction and now he's hoping if he cannot get away he's hoping to send Timothy so that Timothy can give him a report that they've got it that they have turned it around and he says here in verse 20 that for verse 19 he wants to know their state and then a very interesting verse here in verse 24 I have no man like-minded who will not naturally excuse me care for your state so Timothy had developed the spiritual maturity that he had the mind of Christ and everyone else around Paul at this time where he's in Roman in under house

arrest whoever it is that surround him at that time no one has developed that level of maturity as Timothy has the very mind of Christ that he was just talking about but Timothy has this mind of Christ where he'll sacrifice himself in order to look after the welfare of others that he'll esteem others better than himself and so he wants to send this faithful brother Timothy and he says that he'll naturally care for your state first we want for all seek their own and we know from 1st Corinthians 13 agape true spiritual love does not seek its own but even though people are in the gospel these particular brethren that are around Paul they're not strong enough they're not mature enough that he can send them to this congregation he wants to send Timothy because they all seek the wrong not the thing which our Jesus Christ but you know the proof of him you've seen this evidence that as a son with the father so this is how he treated Paul Paul it was like Paul's son he has served me he has served with me in the gospel here therefore I hope to send unto you presently so soon as I shall see how it will go with me so I'm waiting for my sentence I don't know if I'm gonna be put to death I don't know if I'll be released but I want to send Timothy as soon as I can so that I can get a report of how you're doing but I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly so he really he says earlier in Chapter one that he really is confident that he's going to be released and he says it's the fruit of his labor he's so useful to Christ and he's so useful to the congregation's that he's very confident as he looks at the state of affairs that the Romans are gonna

release him because that's the fruit of his labor that he's he's still useful to Christ so he's trusting in the Lord that he also will be able to come to the Philippians shortly yet I supposed it necessary to send you a preferred itis my brother and companion and labor and fellow soldier but your messenger your apostle the one spelled one that you sent to me and he that ministered to my wants so the church at Philippi knew that Paul was in prison they knew that it was in want and so they sent a care package with this brother I preferred itis to Paul and Paul is not hoping to send a prophet itis back to them for he longed after you all he really was caring for you wants to return to you and it was full of heaviness because you had heard that he had been sick so so on the way to Paul he got deathly he became deathly ill and he was worried because they weren't worried about him for indeed he was sick nigh unto death that's how ill he was that he merely died but God had mercy on him and not only on him but on me also lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow I sent him there for the more carefully that when you see him again you may rejoice and that I may be the less sorrowful receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness and hold such in reputation this is a man that really serves God because for the work of Christ he was near unto death not regarding his life again this is the mind of Christ to supply your lack of service toward me so because you weren't able to serve me he came and and served me with the care package so that's actually brings us right to 8:30 and that's is this chapter 2 which is just a very very powerful

chapter

I certainly hope you are edified by it I
hope you'll look into it more this is
the blueprint for a model congregation
next week we'll continue with chapter 3
and I look forward to next week we're
going to resume now I this is Thursday
Michael that was travelling yesterday
we're going back to Wednesday night 6:30
central 7:30 Eastern

we'll resume this wonderful epistle to
thee to the church at Philippi to all
the Brethren including the bishops and
the Deacons at Philippi I look forward
to seeing all of you next week God
willing

=====Quiz# 4