

The Book of Philippians

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The Seeing Mind: Seeing into the Plan of God - 1:1-6 *"A Mind that sees God has a plan for your life"*

There was something about Jesus that was so radiant, so beautiful, so attractive, that people flocked around Him. People would invite Him to their house for dinner, to their church to speak, to their wedding, for walks on the road, for boat rides. Jesus Christ in the best sense was the life of the party. People were attracted to Him not because He was God and cast some mystical spell over them, but because of His nature

(John 15:11 KJV) These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Jesus was full of joy, so much so that He had enough to pass on to every one of His followers. He doesn't just want us to experience a little here, taste a little joy there. He wants our joy to be full (as it says there in John 15)

Christianity is to be a joyous religion, and a relationship that brings joy unspeakable. The nature of Jesus caused people to want to be around Him. There should be a joy in us that is contagious and obvious for the world to see.

This isn't the laughy, giggly stuff. But joy - chara, meaning cheerfulness, a calm delight, gladness. It is not an emotion that changes with the weather and circumstances, but a state of being.

19 times in these 4 chapters joy or rejoice is used. This epistle will encourage us and teach us how to be joyous. This is the epistle of Joy. This is the epistle of Joy, yet Paul writes this while being a prisoner in Rome, chained to a Roman Soldier awaiting trial with Caesar. (Acts 21-28).

Paul is caught up in a legal quagmire, a legal nightmare that never seems to end, a cycle that never ends. A trial date, a postponement, a trial date a postponement. What is your cycle, what is your continual drain, what is that frustrates you continually? Paul could have been depressed or heavy when he wrote this epistle, but he is just the opposite, he writes the Epistle of Joy.

If we study this epistle in its simplest form, it will allow us to be joyous in our heart no matter what our situation or circumstances are externally. We will be free to be joyful in Jesus no matter what we are chained to or imprisoned by externally we can be joyful.

Joy is based on how we think. ***As a man thinks, therefore he is.*** Your attitude truly does effect your altitude. How you think will effect how you feel. 12 times Paul talks about thinking (know/remember/understand/forget), and 12 times he speaks about our mind. He is calling these people to think rightly - to think correctly.

(Proverbs 23:7 KJV) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

(Matthew 9:4 KJV) And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

David Rothenberg, as a young boy, was doused with gasoline and lit on fire by his father to get back at his mother. He went through many painful operations; when asked why, he said all I want is to be restored. All he wanted was to be restored back to his original state, and he went through whatever it took to get there. Folks, we don't think like we should, we are fallen beings, who are now saved. We still have our old mind and thoughts; God wants us to have the mind of Christ, He wants us to be restored back to what He originally intended for us (before the fall). We should long and do whatever it takes to have our minds restored. Don't wait for heaven, God's Word here in Philippians wants to show us how to have the mind of God.

Joyful, successful Christianity is based on this - you can't change your heart – only your mind. Only God can change your heart, and only you can change your mind (free will). So if I change my mind, God can change my heart.

In counseling when someone says they are depressed, discouraged, or defeated; the only thing we can offer them is to say change the way you think and God will change your heart in due season.

Here is the Simple Outline for the Book of Philippians:

The Seeing Mind:

Seeing into the Plan of God - 1:1-6

Seeing into the Heart of God – 1:3-11

Seeing into the Purposes of God – 1:12-20

The Single Mind – 1:20-30

The Submitted Mind – 2:1-18

The Serving Mind – 2:19-30

The Simple Mind – 3:1-16

The Selfish Mind – 3:17-4:3

The Settled Mind – 4:4-13

The Sacrificing Mind – 4:14-23

Detailed Outline for the Book of Philippians:

The Seeing Mind:

Seeing into the Plan of God – A Mind that sees God has a plan for your life.

(Philippians 1:6 KJV) Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Seeing into the Heart of God – A Mind that can see people as God sees them.

(Philippians 1:7 KJV) Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart;

Seeing into the Purposes of God – A Mind that sees above circumstances into the purposes of God. *(Philippians 1:12 KJV) But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;*

The Single Mind – A Mind that lives for Christ. *(Philippians 1:21 KJV) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

The Submitted Mind – A Mind that does the will of the Father. *(Philippians 2:5 KJV) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus;*

The Serving Mind – A Mind that looks to serve others. *(Philippians 2:20 KJV) For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

The Simple Mind – A Mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. *(Philippians 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before*

The Selfish Mind - A Mind that is of no use to God. *(Philippians 3:18 KJV) (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

The Settled Mind - A Mind that is content whatever the circumstances are. *(Philippians 4:6 NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

The Sacrificing Mind - A Mind that gives for others well-being. *(Philippians 4:15 KJV) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

The secret of joy is how you think. Study it through; pray it in, work it out...then we can be like Paul, in that no matter what the circumstances are, we will have joy.

In this little epistle, God wants to show us and teach how to be joyful. The founding verse for this whole book is chapter 1, verse 6.

(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

If we don't settle this, that "He who began a good work in you will complete" then we will never be able to receive all that God has for us in this book. We have to believe without any doubts that God is for us, and has a wonderful plan for our life.

4 points that God wants you to know about the plan He has for your life. 4 points that we must be sure of if we ever want to change our minds and the way we think. If we doubt these 4 foundations, we will never believe that God has a GREAT plan for our life; thus we will never be able to seize the joy that comes through the rest of this book.

- 1. His Hand is Upon your Life**
- 2. He Began the Work**
- 3. All His Works are Good**
- 4. All His Works He Completes**

- 1. His Hand is Upon your Life**
- He who has begun a good work in you

Know that it is the God of the Scriptures whose hand is upon you.

(Philippians 1:1 NKJV) Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

notice – "in Christ Jesus"

"In Christ" is used over 40 times in this epistle. "In Christ" the simplest definition of being saved. It's know the theology stuff of salvation; but it is better to know that little preposition "in". For we are not next to, close to, almost to, we are "in Christ". We are so close to Him, we are inside of Him.

(Colossians 1:27 NKJV) To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Read these words slowly, and you will learn about God. In Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, doesn't matter where you are, but who you are - you are in Christ Jesus. We have to learn to find our contentment in Jesus Christ

Know that the God of the Scriptures, the one who heals, restore. God is the handyman who can fix anything. There are people who don't want to go anymore, they want to quit. Don't quit, God has you on His workbench – the potters wheel.

(Isaiah 64:8 KJV) But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

He has chosen to redeem, restore, and repair you. God so much believed in your life and future that he died for it. Do I believe in the work God wants to do in my life.

A nail in a sure place:

Isaiah 22:23-24. (Jesus picks this up when He talks to church of Philadelphia in Revelation 3. Jesus takes these words and applies them to Himself in Revelation 3). A nail in a sure place. They would hang pots and pans, coats and valuables on the pegs in the tents, and they knew it would hold everything. Jesus is our Nail in a sure place, we can hang all our burdens, failures, insecurities on Him, and be sure it will hold. We are in His Hands, His hands are a sure thing.

(Isaiah 22:21 KJV) And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah.
(Isaiah 22:22 KJV) And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

(Isaiah 22:23 KJV) And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.

(Isaiah 22:24 KJV) And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons.

2. **He Began the Work**

- **He who has begun a good work in you**

(Hebrews 12:1-2KJV) *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

He is the author, initiator. He is the origin of that work in you. Before the foundations of the world he picked you. He treasures you.

(Matthew 13:45-46 KJV) *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*

Matthew 13 is not a picture of the sinner, but the savior. He left all to gain "all" that would come. All that He could have chosen, He chose you. He knew what he was getting into.

God's past works are a good demonstration of His future work.

(Philippians 1:1 NKJV) Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

(Philippians 1:3 NKJV) I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

(Philippians 1:4 NKJV) always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

As the church at Philippi would read this letter, and come to "He who began" they would no doubt reflect back to the beginning of their church and their lives.

Acts 16 is the background on this church in Philippi.. Paul went to Philippi and had a burden to preach. He went to the river bank and met Lydia (well off for she sold purple which was very expensive) and her family and friends; thus the church was started. Later the saved a demon posed girl got saved. Because of her no longer making money for her owners as a soothsayer, Paul got thrown in prison. The jailer and his family got saved as a result of Paul's imprisonment.

This is the church of Philippi. As they had testimony night, these people would tell their testimony. Church – ekklesia, ek-klay-see'-ah; a calling out ones. God begins by calling us out of our empty lives in the world, we get saved and then He continues to work in us.

What a picture of the church. Different backgrounds and diversities, yet 1 in Christ.

This is the way to start a church:

- The Rich – Lydia. God saves the rich. From the crackhouse to the clubhouse God saves.
- Those in bondage – the demon girl. God wants to set people free from their addictions, chains, whatever it is that is keeping them in bondage.

- The fearful – the jailer. God reaches in and shows them He is greater than their fears, and He has a pain for their life.

From this small beginning they came to need elders and deacons. Notice this in verse 1. This church is growing. To see that you are complete God gives gifts:

- Bishop – overseeing the flock
- Elders – they have maturity in the Lord
- Pastor – feeding the flock
- Deacons – acts 6. Takes care of the stuff in the church
- Prayer Warriors – notice Paul prayed for their walk. If you have a church then someone is praying for you

God began a work, and He uses other people to help bring you along.

3. All his Works are Good

- He who has begun a good work in you

The works He has for you is not to be miserable. He is always working for us, and with us. His arms are always around us. The times we are afraid, are the times we don't realize or believe his arms are around us.

We are more disappointed in our failures than we are. He isn't surprised. He says you think that is something, what until you see what you do next week.

(Philippians 1:1 NKJV) Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

(Philippians 1:2 NKJV) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace to You and Peace – Grace always precedes peace in Paul's writings. We were alienated from God because of our sin, but God's grace and forgiveness was poured out upon us at the cross. And we receive that free gift, our sins our washed away, and we are no longer alienated from him, his wrath will never come against us.....we are at Peace with Him.

We experience His grace so we can express his glory. Through His grace He is glorified.

Saints – Not three verify miracles, and a life that was perfect. Saints are those who are in Jesus Christ. Saint means "holy", set apart for God. Anything that is holy is separated for the use of God. Even the old pots and pans in the tabernacle were called "holy vessels," and they were probably beaten and battered after forty years in the wilderness. They may not have looked holy, but they were. Why? Because they had been set aside for the use of God. Now that should be the position of every child of God

(Exodus 40:9 KJV) And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy.

(Exodus 40:10 KJV) And thou shalt anoint the altar of the burnt offering, and all his vessels, and sanctify the altar: and it shall be an altar most holy.

4. All His Works He Completes

- will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Complete – fulfill, finish. Who I am yet to be isn't finished, but when He is complete we will stand back in amazement. God says whatever I have in store for you I am going to see it through.

There is no potters field.

Matthew 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.
5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.
6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.
7 And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.
8 Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

(Jeremiah 29:11 KJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Jeremiah 18:1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
2 Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.
3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.
4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.
5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
6 O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

Application:

What is our role – fellowship in the gospel.

(Philippians 1:5 NKJV) for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, (Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Fellowship means oneness. So oneness in the gospel. You are on the “potter’s wheel”, you jump of the wheel – you quit your fellowship in the gospel – then you now become the potter. God will be calling you the whole time, but he can’t make you into that beautiful vessel unless you are on the wheel – fellowshiping in the gospel.

Scientists now say that a series of slits, not a giant gash, sank the Titanic. The luxurious 900 foot cruise ship sank in 1912 on its first voyage, from England to New York. 1500 people died in the worst maritime disaster of the time. The most widely held theory is that the ship hit an iceberg, which opened a huge gash in the side of the liner. But what they have discovered as they sent cameras down to the ship buried in mud 2.5 miles deep in the ocean was that instead of the one huge gash they found 6 relatively narrow slits across the six watertight holds.

Small damage below the water line and invisible to most, can sink a huge ship. In the same way, small compromises, wrong thinking, unseen to others can ultimately sink our walk with the Lord.

Bondservant - doulos, doo'-los; a slave (lit. or fig., invol. or vol.; frequently therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subvency):--bond (-man), servant.

A Hebrew person if went bankrupt the person they owed the debt to they would have to serve them for 6 years. If they wanted to stay after the six years they would pierce the ear. A doulos gives up their right to chose. Do you really see yourself as this, or is it I still want to have a say in my ways. Lord is not His name, Jesus is His name, Lord is his title. To call Him Lord means you are subject to Him - totally. You can not be a bondsman unless you call him Lord. There was a phrase about being a bondsman in those days. To serve him is to reign as kings.

4 points that God wants you to know about the plan He has for your life. 4 points that we must be sure of if we ever want to change our minds and the way we think. If we doubt these 4 foundations, we will never believe that God has a GREAT plan for our life; thus we will never be able to seize the joy that comes through the rest of this book.

- 1. His Hand is Upon your Life**
- 2. He Began the Work**

3. **All His Works are Good**
4. **All His Works He Completes**

It is so important to see this in others too. We will need to remember this when we come to the next study on “A mind that can see people as God sees them, and the “serving mind”. It is important today to see that God is working in others lives. We need to be patient, understanding as God works on them. Maybe your marriage is rough cause of your spouse, maybe that Christian you fellowship is obnoxious, maybe your kids are bugging you.....Don't give up on them or you'll miss out on the blessings that are yet before you. If God has a plan for your life, and they are part of your life, then they are part of God's plan for your life.

Pam Rozelle shared on how she wanted to leave her husband cause he was such a jerk (and abusive), but the Lord told her to stay, and she weathered the hard times...and today her husband is an ordained Pastor, who preaches to 10's of thousands every year...leading many into the kingdom. She said if I would have left him when I wanted to, then I would have missed out on all this.

God will see it through **until the day of Jesus Christ**; We are living in the day of Jesus. Everyday is His day, and we are “in Christ”, so I am in His hands.

Joyful, successful Christianity is based on this - you can't change your heart – only your mind. Only God can change your heart, and only you can change your mind (free will). So if I change my mind, God can change my heart. Am I willing to change my mind, and believe without a doubt, God has a Great Plan for my life.

End Study: The Seeing Mind: Seeing into the Plan of God - 1:1-6

The Seeing Mind: Seeing into the Heart of God – 1:3-11 **"A Mind that can see people as God sees them"**

Detailed Outline for the Book of Philippians:

The Seeing Mind:

Seeing into the Plan of God – A Mind that sees God has a plan for your life. *(Philippians 1:6 KJV) Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Seeing into the Heart of God – A Mind that can see people as God sees them. *(Philippians 1:7 KJV) Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart;*

Seeing into the Purposes of God – A Mind that sees above circumstances into the purposes of God. *(Philippians 1:12 KJV) But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;*

The Single Mind – A Mind that lives for Christ. *(Philippians 1:21 KJV) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

The Submitted Mind – A Mind that does the will of the Father. (Philippians 2:5 KJV) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

The Serving Mind – A Mind that looks to serve others. *(Philippians 2:20 KJV) For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

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The Selfish Mind – A Mind that is of no use to God. *(Philippians 3:18 KJV) (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

The Settled Mind – A Mind that is content whatever the circumstances are. *(Philippians 4:6 NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

The Sacrificing Mind – A Mind that gives for others well-being. *(Philippians 4:15 KJV) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

Paul wrote four prison epistles. Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Paul was arrested in Jerusalem then held in prison in Caesarea for 2 years until his appeal to Caesar, and then was brought to Caesar in Rome. While in Rome for 2 years he was under house arrest. He was able to rent his own quarters but for 24 hours a day he was chained to a Roman soldier. There were 10,000 elite soldiers in Rome whose chief duty was to protect the emperor. One of these elite men were chained to Paul. Many of them ended up getting saved. While in prison the church in Philippi brought him an offering. So he is writing a letter of thanks and gratitude.

Paul could have had a pity party, been pouting, but instead he is penning. He took the opportunity to write a love letter to them. .

In spite of his circumstance he writes this letter of joy. What caused Him to do this? As we will read in these next few verses, Paul used his prison time to pray for them.

We can apply this to our lives today. People can bring us down spiritually, or lift us up. Friend or foe, how we think of them will effect our altitude in terms of spiritually. We can't change people, but people can change us. We really have no control over changing them, but we do have control on how they change us.

We will hear this in each of our studies here in this book - Joy is based on how we think. **As a man thinks, therefore he is.** Your attitude truly does effect your altitude. How you think will effect how you feel. 12 times Paul talks about thinking (know/remember/understand/forget), and 12 times he speaks about our mind. He is calling these people to think rightly - to think correctly. Joyful, successful Christianity is based on this - you can't change your heart – only your mind. Only God can change your heart, and only you can change your mind (free will). So if I change my mind, God can change my heart.

(Proverbs 23:7 KJV) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

If anybody is robbing you of joy pray for them. Your boss at work, your spouse, a coach, teacher.

You cannot be upset with people you are regularly praying for. When you pray for a person you will no longer be critical about them. Jesus says pray for your enemies, don't curse them. Cursing them will make you bitter. Praying for them you will see them as God does.

Those with ex spouses, abusive fathers, self-seeking bosses. What they have done to you can rob you and imprison you.. Your prayer may not change them, but it certainly will change you.

Are you willing to change the way you think about others? If you will change your mind then God will change your heart.

**(Philippians 1:3 NKJV) I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
(Philippians 1:4 NKJV) always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,
(Philippians 1:5 NKJV) for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,
(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;
(Philippians 1:7 NKJV) just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.
(Philippians 1:8 NKJV) For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.**

(Philippians 1:3 NKJV) I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

Oswald Chambers said, "Prayer is the way the life of God is nourished. Our Lord nourished the life of God in Him by prayer; He was continually in contact with His Father."

As we have been focusing on, if you change your mind, God will change your heart. Notice verse 3 Paul has them in his mind (**every remembrance of you**) then in verse 7 he has them on his heart (**because I have you in my heart**). When you are willing to change your mind, then God will change your heart. He can change it from bad to good, or in this case, good to better.

Paul every time He prays he can't help but lift them up - it didn't matter what his circumstances were. Why? They were on his heart, the jailer - that was a miracle, the demon posed girl – wow that was wild, Lydia - ohh what sweet fellowship. The greatest joy to a minister is to know that his work continues after years. You can't help but thank God when you get to be an instrument to bless and change peoples lives.

(Philippians 1:4 NKJV) always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

Prayer takes us into deeper fellowship with others and God. To not pray is to rip ourselves off. Paul found joy in making request for them before the Lord. In 1 Peter 2:9 we are called a "royal priesthood"

(1 Peter 2:9 KJV) But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

As priest we are to intercede on behalf of other people (saved and unsaved). And here is a key to interpersonal relationships. For those we love we will grow even closer to if we pray for them, and if there is somebody who is bugging you (Your boss at work, your spouse, a coach, teacher.), prayer will release you from being imprisoned to in bitterness. You cannot be upset with people you are regularly praying for. When you pray for a person you will no longer be critical about them. Jesus says pray for your enemies, don't curse them. Cursing them will make you bitter. **Praying for them you will see them as God does.**

Back in the Old Testament, God gave directions for the garments to be worn by the High Priest. Exodus 28 gives the details of making the Ephod and the Breastplate. The Ephod was a kind of apron elaborately embroidered with two pieces (back and front) joined at the shoulder and with a band at the waist. On each shoulder strap was one precious stone with six names of the tribe of Israel on them. The Breastplate covered the heart, and it had four rows with three gemstones in each row. Engraved on each gemstone was the name of one of the tribe of Israel.

Exodus 28:1 "Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.
2 "And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.
3 "So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.
4 "And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.
5 "They shall take the gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen,
6 "and they shall make the ephod of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, artistically worked.
7 "It shall have two shoulder straps joined at its two edges, and so it shall be joined together.
8 "And the intricately woven band of the ephod, which is on it, shall be of the same workmanship, made of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen.
9 "Then you shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel:
10 "six of their names on one stone, and six names on the other stone, in order of their birth.
11 "With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, you shall engrave the two stones with the names of the sons of Israel. You shall set them in settings of gold.
12 "And you shall put the two stones on the shoulders of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. So Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders as a memorial.
13 "You shall also make settings of gold,
14 "and you shall make two chains of pure gold like braided cords, and fasten the braided chains to the settings.
15 "You shall make the breastplate of judgment. Artistically woven according to the workmanship of the ephod you shall make it: of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, you shall make it.
16 "It shall be doubled into a square: a span shall be its length, and a span shall be its width.
17 "And you shall put settings of stones in it, four rows of stones: The first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald; this shall be the first row;
18 "the second row shall be a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond;
19 "the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;
20 "and the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They shall be set in gold settings.
21 "And the stones shall have the names of the sons of Israel, twelve according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, each one with its own name; they shall be according to the twelve tribes.

Even though the children of Israel were rebellious, backbiters, and whiners the High Priest wore their names on His shoulder. Shoulders in the Scriptures always speak of bearing a burden. The priest carried the burden of serving the people and praying for them.

This is significant in that you can't have a gemstone on the heart without having a name on your shoulder - a burden you carry for the people.

The church and people in Philippi were on Paul's heart as gemstones. Pray for people that rob you. Even people you love can bug you – pray for them. Hold them up on your shoulder and pray for them. Intercede for them and they will become gemstones on your heart, and they won't imprison you by how they have hurt you, or continue to hurt you. You can be free. When you pray for people, you will see them as God sees them, cause God will give you His heart for them.

Here is what Paul prays for them:

Paul's Prayer for the Church in Philippi:

1. **That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge:**
2. **That your love may abound still more and more in discernment:**
3. **That you may approve the things that are excellent:**
4. **That you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ:**
5. **That you may be filled with the fruits of righteousness:**

**(Philippians 1:9 NKJV) And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,
(Philippians 1:10 NKJV) that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,
(Philippians 1:11 NKJV) being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.**

1. That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge:

(Philippians 1:9 NKJV) And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

More and more - Paul prays that they won't be satisfied where they are. When a Christian feels comfortable and content, that is usually when they are at the highest risk to fall. Paul prays they will go deeper and deeper. When Jesus says learn of me (Matthew 11:28-30), it is because He wants us to know how much He loves us.

(Matthew 11:28 KJV) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

*(Matthew 11:29 KJV) Take my yoke upon you, **and learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

(Matthew 11:30 KJV) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

The more we know of His love, the more we will respond to Him. The knowledge spoken of here is the knowledge of Jesus Christ and how much He loves us.

The word for love here is the word agape, the unconditional love. And the word "abound" means superabundant, enough to have and give out. Only agape love will abound. If you say I can't love them, then you have not the Christ like characteristics of love. This is the type of love we need to be instrument that are useable by the Master. If don't have this kind of love, or the people we pray for don't, then we need to ask God for it.

You have to experience God's love before you can express it. Knowledge – if I know he agapes me, then I will be able to agape others. If my relationship is shallow with Him, then my relationships with others will be shallow also.

As you pray for someone, and you see that they are not growing more and more in love, then your heart will break for them and you will become sympathetic to them and for them. You won't be critical about them, or upset with them, rather they will become a burden on your heart.

Notice verse 8, **(Philippians 1:8 NKJV) For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.** Prayer will always lead you to action. You cannot pray for someone or something and not be lead to take action. Paul is the example

2. That your love may abound still more and more in discernment:

(Hebrews 4:12 KJV) For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God, will give you discernment. If you believe the Word, then you will find yourself naturally judging correctly between right and wrong.

Last study we looked at what it meant to be a Bondservant of Jesus Christ. A friend of mine was a Bail bondsman, he told me about life as a Bail bondsman. One thing I found most interesting is that he said when they would post bail for someone to get out of jail, that person literally became

their property. He said if they skipped bail, they had the right to breakdown doors, and drag them away. When we say Lord I'm yours, we say the same thing....I am your property Lord.

A Bondsman will give up his/her right to chose, and say "your Word Rules in My Life Lord". I hear the saying all the time, "God said, I believe it, that settles." Noooooooo, it doesn't matter what you believe; God said it, that settles it. Accept that and watch how easier life gets, and how easy it becomes to discern the things before you.

If someone is a burden on your shoulders, and a gemstone on your heart, when you see them exercising poor discernment you will see how far away they are from the Lord, and understand why they do what they do....and you will become sympathetic to them, and not critical or bitter.

(Philippians 1:10 NKJV) that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

3. That you may approve the things that are excellent:

To "approve" is that you would take what is good and use it for your walk, and discard (throw out or away) what isn't.

(Romans 16:19 NIV)but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

But there are some things, that aren't so much evil, but can water-down our walk. There is a lot of secular and world philosophy. Some of it is total junk (evolution), some has some value (some principles of psychology - how the mind thinks), and some can be rather excellent (some principles in management). As we are exposed to these things we need to approve that which are excellent, and throw out that which is not.

As you pray for people, pray that they will be able to approve and discern the things they are exposed to.

A key to joy is not to be critical about everything.

If people talk about others in front of you, then guess what happens when you aren't there.

(Deuteronomy 20:19 NKJV) "When you besiege a city for a long time, while making war against it to take it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them; if you can eat of them, do not cut them down to use in the siege, for the tree of the field is man's food.

(Deuteronomy 20:20 NKJV) "Only the trees which you know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut down, to build siegeworks against the city that makes war with you, until it is subdued.

Rather than pick on them, pick from them. Approve the things that are excellent, and discard those which are not. If it doesn't bear fruit, then cut it down and carry it out. But be careful about wielding the ax wildly and indiscriminately, cause you will become critical.

4. That you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ:

Sincere – means without wax. In those days they had plenty of marble statues to decorate the home and gardens. But there would be times as the craftsman was chiseling he would slip and break the nose off. So what they would do is take ground up marble dust, mix it with wax, and create a new nose. No one could tell with the naked eye. But when the temperature rose, the nose would melt and run down the face. Paul is calling Christians to be sincere, no phoniness, to be real.

Some Christians fool themselves, thinking they are more than they really are. Paul prays that they will see themselves as they really are.

Tested by sunlight - the sincere Christian is not afraid to stand in the light.

V,10: without offense till the day of Christ:

This means our lives do not cause others to stumble.

3 good tests to determine if we are exercising spiritual discernment:

1. How does it line up with the Word of God.
2. Could it cause others to stumble?
3. Will I be ashamed if Jesus returns at this moment.

As we see insincere Christians, it is easy to become critical of them, angry at them (especially if their insincerity hurts us), but it is here that we have to reflect back to our last study.....He who began a good work will be faithful to complete it.....they are God's project. Ask God for patience, and how God will give you patience with them is that He will give you a mind to see them, as He see them.

(Philippians 1:11 NKJV) being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

5. That you may be filled with the fruits of righteousness:

The natural progression: Knowledge, discernment, approving, and sincerity,produces fruit in self. Being filled is the testimony of agape being experienced and expressed.

To produce fruit the limb has to be attached to the vine (Jhn 15:4), and the fruit just naturally blossoms. What type of fruit Gal 5:22, which is Christian character that glorifies God.

(Galatians 5:22 NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (Galatians 5:23 NIV) gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

to the glory and praise of God

True spiritual fruit is so beautiful and wonderful that man cannot claim credit for it, and the glory must go to God.

A fruitless Christian is one who is not seizing all that comes with being "in Christ" as it is mentioned some 40 times in this epistle. A Christian that is not abounding more and more in knowledge and discernment, who is not approving that which is excellent will be insincere and lacking in fruit. Abiding in Christ, abounding in love, a believer will naturally produce fruit without having to strive. Paul is a great example, as we will see in the next study, he is imprisoned, he really couldn't strive if he wanted to, but even being in prison he is producing fruit that others can pick and partake.....here we are today still picking from his fruits.

Conclusion:

If we apply these things, then we too will have the "seeing mind". The mind that sees people as God does. Then people will become "Gemstones on Our Heart."

**End Study: The Seeing Mind: Seeing into the Heart of God –
1:3-11**

The Seeing Mind: Seeing into the Purposes of God – 1:12-20 **"A Mind that sees above circumstances into the purposes of God"**

Detailed Outline for the Book of Philippians:

The Seeing Mind:

Seeing into the Plan of God – A Mind that sees God has a plan for your life. *(Philippians 1:6 KJV) Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Seeing into the Heart of God – A Mind that can see people as God sees them. *(Philippians 1:7 KJV) Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart;*

Seeing into the Purposes of God – A Mind that sees above circumstances into the purposes of God. *(Philippians 1:12 KJV) But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;*

The Single Mind – A Mind that lives for Christ. *(Philippians 1:21 KJV) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

The Submitted Mind – A Mind that does the will of the Father. (Philippians 2:5 KJV) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

The Serving Mind – A Mind that looks to serve others. *(Philippians 2:20 KJV) For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

The Simple Mind – A Mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. *(Philippians 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before*

The Selfish Mind - A Mind that is of no use to God. *(Philippians 3:18 KJV) (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

The Settled Mind - A Mind that is content whatever the circumstances are. *(Philippians 4:6 NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

The Sacrificing Mind - A Mind that gives for others well-being. *(Philippians 4:15 KJV) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

The Apostle Paul, the minister to tens of thousands at the time of this writing, a warrior of the cross, shut up in prison! To many they would be saying "Looks like God made a mistake". But Paul will say "understand this don't have a pity party for me.....God is using this". He is telling them not to question God on "Why?" or, "if God is so good then Why? If God is a God of love then how could He allow this?"

Just like God used the sling in David's hand, the rod in Moses hand, the pen in Matthew's hand....God is going to use the chains on Paul's hands. It is wonderful to see God working even when I wouldn't agree with the circumstances. Many, many people would have been questioning God, but Paul assures them that God is working.

We strive with God so often because we question why he has allowed this into our life.

(Isaiah 45:9 KJV) Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

God wants us to have the mind that "Sees into the Purposes of God – A Mind that sees above circumstances into the purposes of God. "

As we have said before, "Joy is based on how we think". ***As a man thinks, therefore he is.*** Your attitude truly does effect your altitude. How you think will effect how you feel. 12 times Paul talks about thinking (know/remember/understand/forget), and 12 times he speaks about our mind. He is calling these people to think rightly - to think correctly. Joyful, successful Christianity is based on this - you can't change your heart – only your mind. Only God can change your heart, and only you can change your mind (free will). So if I change my mind, God can change my heart. If I will change my mind on how I look at situations and circumstances in my life, no matter how bad they are, God will change my heart on how I deal with them, and I can have joy in any circumstance. Look at Paul, under all this hostility we see no bitterness or anxiety – just joy mentioned 19 times in these 4 chapters.

(Proverbs 23:7 KJV) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

(Philippians 1:12 NKJV) But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,

the things which happened to me:

To make steel you heat it, to lay a foundation the concrete has to be mixed and beaten, and to make a diamond you have to cut it. Paul just didn't one day be ready to go through this severe trial, God prepared him along the way, and He will do the same for you. Paul wrote these words in 2 Corinthians about six years before he writes this letter to the church in Philippi.

(2 Corinthians 11:23 NKJV) Are they ministers of Christ?; I speak as a fool; I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.

(2 Corinthians 11:24 NKJV) From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

(2 Corinthians 11:25 NKJV) Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

(2 Corinthians 11:26 NKJV) in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

(2 Corinthians 11:27 NKJV) in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness;

(2 Corinthians 11:28 NKJV) besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

One thing is that Paul knew God was using him, not disciplining him. It is important to know if we are being purified or disciplined. If your trial is the result of your discipline, then repent and speed your exit of the trial (only know you reap what you sow). But some trials are "sanctified lowliness". These are the times when you will get nothing from your Pastor, brethren, or small group; it will be just you and the Lord. It is in the middle of your severest trial that you will know God loves you and provides for you. It will be during these periods of sanctified loneliness, that you will draw near to God and away from man.

Do you hate being in trials, do you wish they would hurry up and be over? Then wait - Wait is from the Greek and it was a word "to make rope". It is to take one strand, wrapped by another, again, again, again. How strong do you want the rope to be, you wait, then wait, and wait, and wait. You waited the rope based on how much burden it was going to be required to carry and hold.

Wait on the Lord, you know build strand upon strand. As you wait, the stronger you get. It may seem like you are waiting a long time, but each strand, "wait" increases the amount of burden you can carry. And like "call waiting", he can interrupt at any time, God can come through at anytime, don't go around or outside the Lord to fix something. Wait - God is working. He who began a good work will be faithful to complete it.

But you say I can't see any way out. It is dark, I can't see the light, and the clouds have blocked my vision. The question for you is, "Do You See Jesus in Your Clouds?"

Revelation 1:7: Behold, He is coming with clouds . . .

(Revelation 1:7 KJV) Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

(Revelation 1:8 KJV) I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

In the Bible clouds are always associated with God. Clouds are the sorrows, sufferings, or providential circumstances, within or without our personal lives, which actually seem to contradict the sovereignty of God. Yet it is through these very clouds that the Spirit of God is teaching us how to walk by faith. If there were never any clouds in our lives, we would have no faith.

"The clouds are the dust of His feet"

(Nahum 1:3 KJV) *The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.*

The clouds (the trials) are a sign that God is there. What a revelation it is to know that sorrow, bereavement, and suffering is actually the clouds that come along with God! God cannot come near us without clouds-He does not come in clear-shining brightness. We say that God wants to teach us something in our trials; but actually through every cloud He brings our way, He also wants us to "unlearn" something. His purpose in using the cloud is to simplify our beliefs until our relationship with Him is exactly like that of a child-a relationship simply between God and our own souls, and where other people are but shadows. Until other people become shadows to us, clouds and darkness will be ours every once in a while. Is our relationship with God becoming more simple than it has ever been? In the trials we "unlearn", how we think it should be; and then little by little we learn to see God working in each and every trial. We have learned things from living in this world and consuming all its junk, so much so, that it has become a part of us and it feels natural to us. We don't realize that it is not from God. Therefore God has to teach us His ways, and uproot the things that are not His ways. We then develop a mind that Sees into the Purposes of God – A Mind that sees above circumstances into the purposes of God.

Oswald Chambers said, "There is a connection between the strange providential circumstances allowed by God and what we know of Him, and we have to learn to interpret the mysteries of life in the light of our knowledge of God. Until we can come face to face with the deepest, darkest fact of life without damaging our view of God's character, we do not yet know Him. . . ." We fear the trials, the darkness, the clouds. We run from them, or fight against them, only to miss what God brings in them."

I refer you back to the mount of transfiguration. The disciples saw Jesus in His glory

(Luke 9:27 NKJV) "But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God."

(Luke 9:28 NKJV) Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

(Luke 9:29 NKJV) As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.

(Luke 9:30 NKJV) And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah,

(Luke 9:31 NKJV) who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

(Luke 9:32 NKJV) But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.

(Luke 9:33 NKJV) Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"; not knowing what he said.

*(Luke 9:34 NKJV) While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; **and they were fearful as they entered the cloud.***

*(Luke 9:35 NKJV) **And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"***

Peter didn't know what to say, so he said something that religious men would say (lets build churches). God had to "unlearn" him and the other disciples about thinking like the world, so He brought a cloud upon them, and they were fearful. But it was in the cloud, that the Lord spoke...., **"This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"** Hear Him, not the way the world thinks. The only voice we need to hear, is the Lord's.

". . . they were fearful as they entered the cloud" (Luke 9:34). Is there anyone except Jesus in your cloud? If so, it will only get darker until you get to the place where there is "no one anymore, but only Jesus, our way of thinking will no longer exist. Our next study we will look at the "single mind", for me to live is Christ, to die is gain.

(Philippians 1:13 NKJV) so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

Paul wrote four prison epistles. Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Paul was arrested in Jerusalem then held in prison in Caesarea for 2 years until his appeal to Caesar, and then was brought to Caesar in Rome. While in Rome for 2 years he was under house arrest. He was able to rent his own quarters but for 24 hours a day he was chained to a Roman soldier. There were 10,000 elite soldiers in Rome whose chief duty was to protect the emperor. One of these elite men were chained to Paul. Many of them ended up getting saved. They are then

going back to the palace and preaching to others. Paul is affecting the heart of the whole Roman system, for as these men would get shipped out to occupied lands, they would be preaching the gospel too. And little did Paul know that 2000 years later he would still be reaching the world so greatly with these four prison letters he wrote.

(Philippians 1:14 NKJV) and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Now that I am in prison, other guys are standing up and preaching the word. Though I'm tucked away here, the word continues to be preached. A lesson and example to us. Are we raising other people up to carry on the ministry should we be taken out (either short term or long term)? Dads pour yourself into your wife and kids. Men find other men and raise them up. Paul is saying others are stepping up to bat. We need to be ready to bat. Pastor Rick always seemed to put me in situations that were one step above my comfort zone (funerals, teaching, and mission coordinating). It made me step up, and seek the Lord.

Something happens when someone goes through difficulties, challenges, and personal imprisonment. It causes others to wax more confidently. They see that we can rejoice and believe that God is working, than they believe even more so in the validity and reality of Jesus Christ. You know it is the hot water we are in or been in that opens the door to witness to people. Some people won't give you the time of day until they hear that their problem was or is your problem. That you stuck out a marriage, or waited until a marriage, survived a death of a loved one. Today's circumstances can effect tomorrow's eternity in the lives of other people.

That is why we go through the troubles and problems so we can draw others to Christ, encourage others in Christ, so others we wax more boldly. Your burden will never be more than you can bear. God is good, and only allows what will be good for us.

(Philippians 1:15 NKJV) Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will:

(Philippians 1:16 NKJV) The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;

(Philippians 1:17 NKJV) but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

(Philippians 1:18 NKJV) What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

Strife – contention. This is the same word for “canvassing” we use in political campaigning and marketing. For they hope to gain support for themselves and their cause.

Paul had enemies; the fact that God uses you will create enmity, jealousy, and animosity from other people. So now that Paul is in prison people are taking advantage of the situation. Now lets imagine for a few minutes, that these people are saved, imagine how embarrassed they were when they reached heaven. You mean I thought myself greater than an Apostle. I'm feeling like a fool now, I'll go stand over there. They probably stole a few here and there, had some church growth, and were feeling good about themselves. Maybe they even affiliated with the dove over the door, thinking success has come. When they got to heaven they found out they played the fool, and they are in the joke book that sits on Satan's coffee table. But look at Paul, he didn't waste time defending himself, he was happy as long as the gospel got preached.

Paul is saying whatever...as long as the word is being preached. If you're in ministry, don't let Satan distract you with what other people are saying about you, or even doing to you. Just teach the Word, and love the people.

Counseling for Life's Disasters:

(Philippians 1:19 NKJV) For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ:

We can help others through their trials by prayer. And as we spoke last study, prayer will always lead you to action. You can't pray for someone and idly sit by, you have to get involved in their life.

Now it is important to see and realize what people (or ourselves) go through when disaster strikes. We all experience some sort of disaster at some point in our lives being that we live in this fallen world. A disaster may be a 9-11, or a divorce, death of loved one, terminal illness, or bankruptcy to name a few. To realize and understand what they are going through will greatly aid in us being able to minister to them. If someone's world is falling apart, we need to help them withstand the devastation and blow to their life. We need to help them through, and help them overcome, and prayerfully...bring this disaster to a closure so they can continue on.

There are four phases/stages to a disaster in someone's life. Disaster, Rescue, Recovery, and Closure:

The **first** stage of an event is the **disaster** itself. With the disaster comes shock and disbelief. And those emotions affect every area of our life.

The **second** of a critical incident is the **rescue** effort. The rescue effort marks an emotional shift for the people involved; it becomes a time of hope. Once the shock of the bankruptcy decision is over or the shock that you have been served divorce papers has subsided, then you try to rescue everything you can. Thinking that counseling or talking things out will save the situation, you have hope.

The **third** stage is an uncomfortable one. This is the **recovery** effort. The recovery effort takes place once it becomes obvious that your hope is in vain, when you begin to realize the facts, they stare you right in the face, and you understand things can never be the same. You know for sure life will never be like it used to be before this event entered your life. You then begin to do your best to recover from the pain, suffering, and emotional trauma of your disaster.

The **fourth** and final stage is the **closure** period. Many times we find that this part of a major incident is very difficult. Guilt can plague you, and your emotions can be in turmoil, preventing you from making the decision to move forward with your life. Closure is a must; otherwise you will spend the rest of your life wandering in a gloomy world of sadness and indecision. Know that Jesus Christ has a different plan and purpose for you.

Lets take a closer look at each of these phases, and our role in them.

Disaster

Disaster comes in many forms: Death of a loved one, a car accident, a high school romance breakup, bankruptcy, diagnosis of terminal illness, loss of a job, divorce, rape, murder, kidnapping of children, and September 11th.

With the disaster comes shock and disbelief. And those emotions affect every area of our life. The walls are their lives are falling down. Their mind is racing, trying to understand what has happened. Hysteria, fear, panic.....helplessness.

If you've been there, or are their now, you know what I'm saying. And I'm sorry to say, either you will be there again, or someone you know will be. If its you, then slowdown, take a deep breath, and know that the Lord is still seated on the throne, and He is not taken by surprise, and he is coming in the clouds. This is my beloved son, Hear Him.

If you are coming to the aid of a disaster in someone's life, then here are a few basic counseling principles that will greatly aid the situation:

- First and foremost, this is a **ministry of presence**. Your bodily presence will bring them great comfort in their time of need. They don't want to be alone, and it is best that they are not alone (in some cases to keep them from doing something damaging to themselves.)
- It is a **ministry of availability**. During this time they may need to talk to you several times a day. Make yourself available.
- It's a **ministry of listening**. Let them express themselves, don't do all the talking. We think we have to have all the answers, the right answer for the right time. Actually during this time we don't want talk too much, their minds are racing - they really can't absorb everything you are saying. Choose your words carefully, the less words you say the more likely the ones you do say will stick.

Clichés people despise hearing:

Be strong for your kids
You've got to get hold of yourself
It's God's will
Your still young
Time will heal all
It could be worse
God needed him in heaven
I know how you feel

And in reference to the ministry of availability, don't feel that you need something new to tell them every time, just be there for them.

- It is a **ministry of composure**. The situation may be horrible, so much so that you are sickened or angered by what just happened to them. We must stay calm. Our voice has to be soothing, don't get upset and anxious with them, or you will add to their anxiety.
- It is a **ministry of compassion**. Show compassion, but keep your composure. This is a time when we really need to understand them, not they needing to understand what we are saying, that will come later. Comfort them by holding their hand, or in your arms.
- It's a **ministry of assurance**. They need to know that the Lord is still seated on the throne, and He is not taken by surprise. That He is coming in the clouds. That the Lord is here with them right now (this is my beloved son, Hear Him). When faced with things I do not understand, I always go back to what I do understand. God loves me and has a plan for my life (Philippians 1:6 & Jeremiah 29:11).

Rescue:

This is the period when the shock has worn off, and they are looking for any hope they can possibly find. In divorce they are hoping that counseling will save their marriage. In terminal illness they hope a second opinion or retest will change the results. In job loss they hope for a rehire or reconsideration. In all of these they try to hold onto everything and anything they can.....they still have hope that the situation isn't as bad as it first appears.

Unfortunately, this can also be a period of desperation. The person is not willing to face the reality of what has happened. They will be in denial and unrealistic.

If you are coming to the aid when the person is in the rescue phase, then here are a few basic counseling principles that will greatly aid the situation:

- First and foremost it's a **ministry of hope**. Don't crush their hope,

(Proverbs 13:12 KJV) Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

...but don't give false hope either, in some cases we will have to be the voice of reason for them. In death, we will have to be loving, compassionate, but direct, and tell them that their loved one is gone. But in most other disasters, we can stand beside them, and join in their hope. Why shouldn't we have hope? For our God is the God of Hope. Our hope is not in man, but a child...for unto us a child was born.

(Isaiah 9:6 KJV) For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Look at all the hope that comes with Him: He is wonderful, our counselor in time of need, He has the might of the universe, He is everlasting, and He is Peace in this time of turmoil. We can have hope that He will heal the marriage, or cure the illness, or find the new job.....He is our Hope.

- What it is **not**, is a **ministry of opinions**. Don't give your opinion on the situation. Don't choose sides on who was right and who was wrong (also, sometimes disasters in others lives affect ours; we have to accept in our life that things may never be the same - and not take it personally). Don't tell people what to do; you don't have to live with your opinion. Don't tell people they are better off without that spouse, because you are not the one who sleeps in their bed alone.
- As in every phase it is a **ministry of presence, availability and listening**; however it is important that we make them reliant on Christ, not us; so we have to point them to Him.

(Jeremiah 33:3 KJV) Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

- It is a **ministry of pointing**. Steer them to the Word, prayer, and fellowship. At best we are a band-aid, Christ is the one that can heal their wound.

(John 3:30 KJV) He must increase, but I must decrease. - John the Baptist

- It is a **ministry of guarding**. Ask them, "what do you want?" As they talk about what they want it will give them hope. However, we may have to be on guard for them. Often during this rescue phase they are so desperate, they are unrealistic. We may need to be the voice of reason. If you recall the last study, Paul prayed that the people would grow in "discernment" and "approve" the things that are excellent.

When people are desperate, they often lose their discernment. Crooked people play-off this very fact, knowing that desperation will make people do foolish things. I've seen Christians in this phase be willing to break the law, risk life and limb, because they are so desperate. This is where we aid them in the area of discernment (what is right and wrong). Also, aid them in the area of "approving the things that are excellent." To "approve" is that you would take what is good and use it for your walk, and discard (throw out or away) what isn't. We talked about all the worldly philosophy that is thrown at us every day. Well people are getting advice from all over. Some of it good, some horrible. Through the Word of God we can help guard them from poor advice, and use what is good.

Recovery:

The **third** stage is an uncomfortable one. This is the **recovery** effort. The recovery effort takes place once it becomes obvious that your hope is in vain, when you begin to realize the facts, they stare you right in the face, and you understand things can never be the same. You know for sure life will never be like it used to be before this event entered your life. You realize that your marriage is over, your illness is terminal, your job is over, or that loved one isn't coming home.

This is where you or they begin to do your best to recover from the pain, suffering, and emotional trauma of your disaster.

This is a period of emotional Roller coasters. People will fight through frustration, bitterness, anger, depression, maybe even thoughts of suicide. The cycle can change from depression to anger as quick as the wind does.

If you are involved in the "recovery" phase, then you may be in for a long haul.

- First and foremost it is a **ministry of prayer**. Of course every phase is a ministry of prayer; but in this phase we will need to pray for ourselves as much as them. The recovery phase can be a long time, and it can get hard to continually exercise the **ministry of presence, availability and listening**. We are busy with our own lives and problems; but if we intercede in prayer on their behalf, God will make them "gemstones" on our heart, and we will be moved into action for them. You cannot pray for someone and not be moved into action for them.
- It is a **ministry of patience**. - Recovery can take a long time. We need to stay consistent in our counsel. There can be a tendency to become frustrated at the slow progress, and grasp for something - hoping it may change things. Stick to godly counsel. It is like the opinion thing. If they take a risk at your suggestion, you won't be the one who has to live with that risk. (examples: trying dating someone else. Try this experimental drug, move out and that will make your spouse think, file bankruptcy. Someday it may come to that, but as counselors we need to stick to black and white, and the Words in Red.
- It is a **ministry of the Word**. Give them the Word, and you give them Jesus Himself.

(John 1:1 KJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses and all the king's men,
Couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again.

So much like the world, they called the king's horses, they called the king's men.....but they never called on the king. Give them Jesus and you've given them everything. Paul's prayer was - **That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge.**

The prayer of Paul is vital for recovery. . Remember, when Jesus says learn of me (Matthew 11:28-30), it is because He wants us to know how much He loves us. The more we know of His love, the more we will respond to Him. The knowledge spoken of here (in Paul's prayer) is the knowledge of Jesus Christ and how much He loves us.

(Matthew 11:28 KJV) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

*(Matthew 11:29 KJV) Take my yoke upon you, **and learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

(Matthew 11:30 KJV) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

- It is a **ministry of directness**. Sometimes this is where we may have to have the tough love thing. We have to tell them like it is, but we have to wait until they are ready for the recovery. All this may be their fault. Ask them what they are willing to change. The place of repentance if they have done something to cause this

If you are counseling unbelievers, this is where the gospel is best preached. In the disaster and rescue phase it is the no atheists in foxhole. But during the recovery in their "ground zero", they can look up and see Jesus seated on the throne, willing to receive them.

This is the place where we try to get them to quit thinking about themselves so much (if you want to be miserable, think about yourself). Encourage them to look for ways to serve others. One of the greatest aids for recovery is serving others. We will be studying in a future study, *The Serving Mind*.

The Serving Mind – A Mind that looks to serve others. (*Philippians 2:20 KJV*) *For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

But, at the same time we need to tell them to be sincere – without wax. The emotions they are going through are normal, and everybody goes through. Let them vent without preaching to them. If they try to hide their pain, and play the strong Christian, all this will bottle up inside and they cannot be healed. Anger, betrayal, helplessness, and/or hopelessness, lead to bitterness. As bad as bitterness is, we could probably live with it if we could contain it, sweep it into one of life's small corners, then get on with enjoying the rest of life. But we can't contain it. Bitterness may start out as a little blemish on an otherwise joyous life, but it grows and hardens. It grows roots that touch, then influence, then strangle other parts of our lives. Bitterness if held on to, will do far more damage to you than what you're bitter about. We need to tell them their bitterness will keep them in bondage for life.

The prayer of Paul is a great guideline to pray for someone whose has experienced a disaster in their life. We can see its application in every phase:

That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge:

That your love may abound still more and more in discernment:

That you may approve the things that are excellent:

That you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ:

That you may be filled with the fruits of righteousness:

It is a long haul to recovery. A phone call out of the blue asking how they are doing is precious.

Closure:

The **fourth** and final stage is the **closure** period. Many times we find that this part of a major incident is very difficult. Guilt can plague you, and your emotions can be in turmoil, preventing you from making the decision to move forward with your life. Closure is a must; otherwise you will spend the rest of your life wandering in a gloomy world of sadness and indecision. Know that Jesus Christ has a different plan and purpose for you.

There really isn't anything we can do here, other than what we have been doing. The only way their heart can be changed is if they will change their mind about the situation and circumstance.

Seeing into the Plan of God – A Mind that sees God has a plan for your life. (*Philippians 1:6 KJV*) *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:* - Closure will come when they can see, even though disaster has happened, I know God still has a plan for my life.

Seeing into the Purposes of God – A Mind that sees above circumstances into the purposes of God. *(Philippians 1:12 KJV) But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;* - Closure will come when they can see, even though disaster has happen, God will use this for good.

The Single Mind – A Mind that lives for Christ. *(Philippians 1:21 KJV) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* - Closure will come when they can see, even though disaster has happen, I will not turn from God, but live for Him.

The Simple Mind – A Mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. *(Philippians 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before* - Closure will come when they can see, even though disaster has happen, I will not keep living in the past, dwelling on the past, but look forward to what God has in front of me.

The Settled Mind - A Mind that is content whatever the circumstances are. *(Philippians 4:6 NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;* - Closure will come when they can see, even though disaster has happen, I know God is still on the throne.

**End Study: The Seeing Mind: Seeing into the Purposes of God –
1:12-20**

The Single Mind – A Mind that lives for Christ. – 1:20-30

Detailed Outline for the Book of Philippians:

The Seeing Mind:

Seeing into the Plan of God – A Mind that sees God has a plan for your life. *(Philippians 1:6 KJV) Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Seeing into the Heart of God – A Mind that can see people as God sees them. *(Philippians 1:7 KJV) Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart;*

Seeing into the Purposes of God – A Mind that sees above circumstances into the purposes of God. *(Philippians 1:12 KJV) But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;*

The Single Mind – A Mind that lives for Christ. *(Philippians 1:21 KJV) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

The Submitted Mind – A Mind that does the will of the Father. (Philippians 2:5 KJV) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

The Serving Mind – A Mind that looks to serve others. *(Philippians 2:20 KJV) For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

The Simple Mind – A Mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. *(Philippians 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before*

The Selfish Mind - A Mind that is of no use to God. *(Philippians 3:18 KJV) (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

The Settled Mind - A Mind that is content whatever the circumstances are. *(Philippians 4:6 NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

The Sacrificing Mind - A Mind that gives for others well-being. *(Philippians 4:15 KJV) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

Men make powerful statements everyday. Proclamations of war, mega-mergers worth billions of dollars, cures for terminal illness.....but all pale in comparison to Paul's statement here..... *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* You don't have to be a Statesmen or CEO to make a statement that will rock the rafters in the house of hell. All you have to be is sold out for Jesus Christ.

Here it is, the Single Mind for Christ *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* The question for you is "For me to live is _____." You fill in the blank. Some will say, For me to live is drugs, For me to live is women, For me to live is sports, For me to live is money, For me to live is fame, For me to live is power. What do you live for?

Is it an alarm or a calling that gets you out of bed in the morning? What is the master passion in your life? We all live for something. What do you get up for everyday. In a recent study when people were asked what are you living for, 94% said they were enduring the present, while waiting for something in the future. That future may have been when they got married, finished school went on vacation. Sadly, some people don't even really know what they are living for. They are kinda just meandering through life, waiting for something to happen. Its been said, "If you aim for nothing, then you'll probably hit it."

The God you worship, is what you become. You become what you behold. Is your life a mess? Then work backwards, and find out what you have been beholding.

(Psalms 135:15 KJV) The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

(Psalms 135:16 KJV) They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not;

(Psalms 135:17 KJV) They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths.

*(Psalms 135:18 KJV) **They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them.***

Man has strayed from God's original intent, and that is to live for Christ. Even as believers it is easy to slowly drift away from getting up for a calling, rather than an alarm. We get so busy in life, we forget living. Paul had an encounter on Damascus Road, and he never lost it. His life became to live for Christ. Medicine can add years to your life, but only Christ can add life to your years.

Paul, through the inspiration of God, tells the church in Philippi and us today, live for Christ and you will have joy. In these verses God wants us to think differently on what is most important in our life, and what true joy is, and how we can have true joy in our life.

Again, Joy is based on how we think. **As a man thinks, therefore he is.** Your attitude truly does effect your altitude. How you think will effect how you feel. 12 times Paul talks about thinking (know/remember/understand/forget), and 12 times he speaks about our mind. He is calling these people to think rightly - to think correctly. Joyful, successful Christianity is based on this - you can't change your heart – only your mind. Only God can change your heart, and only you can change your mind (free will). So if I change my mind, God can change my heart.

(Proverbs 23:7 KJV) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

A survey taken asked people what are you looking for most in your life? The answer was not money or a great house. But Love, Joy, and Peace. These people were not free on the inside. Paul was chained in prison, yet he was free on the inside. Many people are not free on the inside because they can't control their thoughts or attitude.

Richard Dreyfuss, at the peak of his career, was asked after the Academy Awards, what was missing in his life said, every time I blow out candles, or see a shooting star, and make a wish, I wish I had inner peace. Why is our society becoming more and more angry and upset? Cause people are bitter and upset about their past. Their childhood, parents, marriages, relationships. If we don't learn how to be free on the inside, despite our circumstances, we will never have joy. People are not living for Christ, but living for the past, never moving on into the future.

In this study we see the basic formula for living for Christ, it is J-O-Y.

J-O-Y -Jesus First (1:20-23):

J-O-Y -Others Second (1:24-26):

J-O-Y -Yourself Third (1:27—30):

God wants us to think in this order; any other order and our life will be out of whack, and we will have no joy, and constantly be bitter, upset, anxious or depressed to name a few.

1. J-O-Y -Jesus First:

(Philippians 1:20 NKJV) according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

(Philippians 1:21 NKJV) For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

(Philippians 1:22 NKJV) But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

(Philippians 1:23 NKJV) For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

The Single Mind that lives for Christ, will have JOY, when Jesus is first in your life.

v.20: in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always

Paul is saying I will be ashamed of nothing, I am His, he is Mine, He who began a good work will be faithful to complete it. Paul was undisturbed by the criticism being leveled at him. You can't hurt a man who is in fellowship with Jesus Christ. What can anyone do to such a man.

Paul didn't know about his future, just as you and I don't know about our future. We don't even know what a single day will bring forth. He was to appear before Caesar Nero, and he knew not if he would be given life or death. He would have known that Nero saw Jesus as a threat. Nero

demanded that everyone proclaim that Caesar is lord. In verse 20 he said pray that I'll be as bold as I've always been, although the consequences may be my head.

Paul appeared before Nero twice. Once on his appeal in Caesarea, and he was set free for the charges had no basis. But according to church history, after his second appearance he was beheaded. Interestingly a look at history says that up until the point when Paul appeared before him, Nero was a decent ruler. But after Paul's appearance there was a sudden and dramatic change in his personality. He becomes like a madman, in fact many thought he went insane. God through Paul gave Nero a chance to be saved. It is possible that Paul's witness was so strong, and Nero's rejection so total and final, that he became demon posed. Some indications? He persecuted the church! In his garden he would tie Christians to posts, cover them with tar and light them on fire. He would then ride his chariot through the garden naked. He burned Rome in his desire to build a new and greater Rome, one that he would name after himself.

We are not totally sure if his writing was before his first or second appearance, in either case death was possible. All that Paul cared about was that Christ would be magnified.

v.21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

You can only say to die is gain, if you live for Christ. We learn from Paul's example that when we can accept three things can we say to live is Christ:

- 1.) We must accept circumstances that don't go our way, knowing God will use them for our good.
- 2.) We need to accept conflicts in our life, God will use them to make us more like him.
- 3.) We need to accept that whatever happens in our life, is for us to exult the Lord through them.

Gain is a financial term – it is to cash in both principal and interest. For us it is to have more of Christ than when living. We won't be entangled with the flesh that fights us from that total fellowship with the Lord. So Paul faces death with independence and calm courage. Look at verse 23, he wants to depart.

v.23 having a desire to depart and be with Christ

Depart was used by soldiers and it meant to breakdown camp and move on. Take down the tents (see 2 Cor 5:1-8). The tent we live in is taken down in death, and the spirit goes home to be with Christ. Sailors used it to pull anchor and set sail. Farmers used it to take a yoke off an animal. In the political world it was used to describe setting free a prisoner. To depart means to laying aside the burdens and bondages and be free. Oh to be free from this sinful body, and to no longer struggle with the flesh.

*(2 Corinthians 5:1 KJV) For we know that if our **earthly house of this tabernacle** were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

(2 Corinthians 5:2 KJV) For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

(2 Corinthians 5:3 KJV) If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

(2 Corinthians 5:4 KJV) For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

(2 Corinthians 5:5 KJV) Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

(2 Corinthians 5:6 KJV) Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

(2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV) (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

*(2 Corinthians 5:8 KJV) We are confident, I say, and willing rather **to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.***

40 brave soldiers for Christ:

The year was 200AD, and there was a major wave of persecution against the Christians. Emperor Caesar demanded that everyone worship him as deity. He demanded that every soldier acknowledges him as Lord. So a Captain of a Unit in the Northern Alps got all his men together and said this is what Caesar wants. However this particular unit had 40 born-again believers in it, and they said we can't do that, cause Jesus is Lord. The captain said I don't care if you believe it, just say it so we can be done with it; but they said we can't do it. The Captain was concerned because he knew the other soldiers were watching, and his authority and position would be in jeopardy. So he called his superior to come in, who was a General, and he was a godless anti-Christian. He demanded these men submit, and profess Caesar is lord. They

wouldn't. So that night, as the temperature dropped below zero, he gathered all 40 of them, stripped them naked, and made them sit on the frozen lake. He said think about what you are doing, and if you change your mind, then you can come join us around the fire - if not, then this will be your last evening.

The guards watched as the men began to sing 40 brave soldiers for Christ, 40 brave soldiers for Christ, over and over. Their skin started to turn blue, teeth chattering, and bodies quivering. The guards around the fire would scream over, come on just say Caesar is lord, save yourself and come over to the fire. Well one of the 40 couldn't take it any more, he jumps up and says Caesar is lord, and runs across the lake to the fire. The men continue to sing, but this time, 39 brave soldiers for Christ, 39 brave soldiers for Christ. But suddenly, the Captain himself takes off his armor, his clothes, and runs across the lake and says, no.....40 brave soldiers for Christ. He dies along with them on that frozen lake.

JOY, living for Jesus first, Others second, and yourself last.

2. J-O-Y -Others Second:

(Philippians 1:24 NKJV) Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.
(Philippians 1:25 NKJV) And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,
(Philippians 1:26 NKJV) that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

The Single Mind that lives for Christ, will have JOY, when Jesus is first in your life, Then others are second.

Why doesn't God take you to heaven upon conversion? Cause He has you here for a reason. He wants to use you in other people's life. They say that people that are so heavenly minded (ie *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain*) they are no earthly good. It really should be if you are not heavenly minded, then you will be no earthly good. Your emphasis will be wrong, your values will be off. The Colossians were exhorted to be heavenly-minded; Paul understood that if he stayed, God would use him in the here and now. Do we see this?

(Colossians 3:1 KJV) If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Go back to v.20: ***so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.*** Why does God have to be magnified, cause man is so far away. Everything we go through. trials, tribulation and still have our joy in the Lord...God is magnified. We use a telescope to bring far away objects closer; the believers body is to be a telescope that brings Jesus Christ closer to people. To the average person, Christ is a misty figure in history that lived centuries ago. But as they watch the believer live for Christ, they can see Christ magnified and brought closer. To the unbeliever Jesus is not very big, other people and other things are far more important. As they live they say, For me to live is_____. As they watch the believers they should see how big Jesus Christ really is.

Magnify Christ, He is the only one that will last, you'll be forgotten. The pyramids in Gaza, three Pharaohs spent million and millions to erect monuments so no one would forget them. Can you name them? When you die you will be forgotten. Your immediate family will miss you, but life moves on quickly. If you are going to be a magnifier, than magnify Christ.

v.25. I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith. Paul knew his life would make a difference in theirs. He knew they would increase in faith and be full of joy. That word progress means to "to lead the way, to pioneer." Paul knew he was leading them into a higher spiritual realm, a new level of faith. Invest in others, and we will have JOY

Paul will talk more about serving others in future studies, and how we are to have a mind that looks to serve others:

The Serving Mind – A Mind that looks to serve others. *(Philippians 2:20 KJV) For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

The Sacrificing Mind - A Mind that gives for others well-being. *(Philippians 4:15 KJV) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

JOY, living for Jesus first, Others second, and yourself last.

3. J-O-Y -Yourself Third:

(Philippians 1:27 NKJV) Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am 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,
(Philippians 1:28 NKJV) and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.
(Philippians 1:29 NKJV) For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,
(Philippians 1:30 NKJV) having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

The Single Mind that lives for Christ, will have JOY, when Jesus is first in your life; then others are second; and you last. J-O-Y

v.27. Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ

Paul wants to hear that their conduct was worthy of the gospel. To not live a life worthy of the gospel, is to rob ourselves. We were all made for intimate fellowship with our Maker. Anything that separates us from that, robs of our life and joy.

Some translation will say conversation, others will say conduct, but all mean the same. The word conduct means your way of life. Not just our speech, but every aspect of our life. Paul's prayer, was that we would grow more and more in love. As your love grows more and more for Christ, the world will get smaller and smaller.

What is Conduct worthy of the gospel? Throwing away those old grave clothes, the clothes the old man use to wear, and putting on the Grace clothes, as we are robed in righteousness. I remember when I was young me and my father and I were walking a country trail, and a skunk came across our path. Dad stopped me and said you don't want to get skunked or you'll have to burn your clothes. That's exactly what we have to do, we have been skunked by our old sinful nature, we have to throw our old clothes away, don't try to clean them, reform them, color or alter. Burn them.

Lets look at Romans 13:12:

(Romans 13:12 KJV) The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

(Romans 13:13 KJV) Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

(Romans 13:14 KJV) But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

v.12 That word "Cast off" means to excommunicated:--(put) out of the synagogue (-s). Your belief aren't welcomed here.

v.13 "Put-on" - means (in the sense of sinking into a garment); to invest with clothing (lit. or fig.):--array, clothe (with), endue, have (put) on.

Change your mind on the way you think about these things that God tells you to cast-off. You may say the struggle is too much, then you have to say I know it is wrong, and then God can change your heart. A mother once asked me when will my son quit shooting heroin, I said when he is tired of it. As long as you entertain in your mind that these things are enjoyable, then God can't deal with them, cause He will not violate your free will./

Three Indicators that your conduct is worthy of the gospel, and encouragement to continue the fight:

1.) v.28. and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

It's Proof: If the enemy is coming against you, then it is proof of your salvation cause the enemy considers you a threat. If you are never attacked, then there is a problem. New believers think that trusting in Christ is the end of their battles, where in reality it is just the beginning of new ones.

(2 Timothy 3:12 KJV) Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

2.) v.29. For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

It's a Privilege: It's a privilege to suffer for Him. If you suffer for Him then it is an indication that He has counted you worthy.

(Acts 5:41 KJV) And they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.**

Peter said don't think it strange, this is normal:

(1 Peter 4:12 KJV) Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

(1 Peter 4:13 KJV) But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

(1 Peter 4:14 KJV) If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

To suffer for ourselves is no big deal. But to suffer for the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, it is a high and holy honor. Believers are encouraged to rejoice and glory in reproaches and sufferings for Christ, and to commit their souls to the care of a faithful God. Suffering for Christ is a token of blessing, not a sign that God has turned His face away.

3.) v.30. having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

It's a Process: Everybody goes through this, you are not alone. I bet everyone in here is battling something right now, you are not alone. Our greatest growth comes through our hardest times, for it is then we seek our Heavenly Father. The word conflict is from the Greek word "agonizia" where we get our word agony. It is the same word used for Christ's struggle in the garden.

(Luke 22:44 KJV) And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

One thing that you can always count on in a trial, and that is that God will always give Himself to you during that trial. The Lord Himself has been there, and will be there with you. There is no way to be walking in the Lord, deep in the Lord, without going through difficulties for the Lord. Satan wants you to think you are the only one going through trials. As people grew confidence watching Paul, others will grow confident watching them. And people will watch

(Philippians 1:14 KJV) And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

This truly is a "team effort":

v.27 that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

The word "Striving" - sunathleo, (soon-ath-leh'-o) is an athletic term; it means to wrestle in company with, to seek jointly: labor with, strive together.

It is teamwork. Did you see Ray Lewis playing without Sam Adams and Tony Sirigusia this year.. He was making the same amount of tackle, but instead of like last year making the tackles at the

line of scrimmage, he was making them 5 yards forward of the line of scrimmage, with blockers all over him. The league MVP, owes much of his credit to his teammates. Without our teammates for the faith of the gospel, we are just average players. Don't sell yourself short. Strive together, and we all grow in the faith of the gospel. Satans strategy is always divide and conquer. Believers need to stand together.

J-O-Y, living for Jesus first, Others second, and yourself last.

For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.

**End Study: The Single Mind – A Mind that lives for Christ. –
1:20-30**

The Submitted Mind – A Mind that does the will of the Father – 2:1-18

Joy is based on how we think. **As a man thinks, therefore he is.** Your attitude truly does effect your altitude. How you think will effect how you feel. 12 times Paul talks about thinking (know/remember/understand/forget), and 12 times he speaks about our mind. He is calling these people to think rightly - to think correctly. Joyful, successful Christianity is based on this - you can't change your heart – only your mind. Only God can change your heart, and only you can change your mind (free will). So if I change my mind, God can change my heart.

(Proverbs 23:7 KJV) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

Detailed Outline for the Book of Philippians:

The Seeing Mind:

Seeing into the Plan of God – A Mind that sees God has a plan for your life. (Philippians 1:6 KJV) *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Seeing into the Heart of God – A Mind that can see people as God sees them. (Philippians 1:7 KJV) *Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart;*

Seeing into the Purposes of God – A Mind that sees above circumstances into the purposes of God. (Philippians 1:12 KJV) *But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;*

The Single Mind – A Mind that lives for Christ. (Philippians 1:21 KJV) *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

The Submitted Mind – A Mind that does the will of the Father. (Philippians 2:5 KJV) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

The Serving Mind – A Mind that looks to serve others. (Philippians 2:20 KJV) *For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

The Simple Mind – A Mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. (Philippians 3:13 KJV) *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before*

The Selfish Mind – A Mind that is of no use to God. (Philippians 3:18 KJV) *(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

The Settled Mind – A Mind that is content whatever the circumstances are. (Philippians 4:6 NKJV) *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

The Sacrificing Mind – A Mind that gives for others well-being. (Philippians 4:15 KJV) *Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

Last study we spoke of JOY. Jesus first, others second, and ourselves last. We looked at the Single Mind, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. A mind that would live solely for Christ. In this study we are going to look at the submitted mind. A mind that will die to self. There is no way you can live for Christ without dying to yourself. Your mind has to be submitted to Christ, in order to live for Him. A submitted mind does the will of the Father.

In the context God is calling us to have a submitted mind so that we may reflect God, and be in unity with one another, and serve one another.

(Philippians 2:1 NKJV) Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,

(Philippians 2:2 NKJV) fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

(Philippians 2:3 NKJV) Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

(Philippians 2:4 NKJV) Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

If He has been there for you, if He has been of any comfort, if he has been there through the hard times, if you have felt His tender touch.....then verse two be like minded.

Look at person that comes into your life as a privilege to know them, a gift from God. God wants us to esteem others higher than ourselves. Forget that self-esteem stuff. It is others-esteem.

From our last study, it is Christ-esteem, others-esteem, and then yourself-esteem. Do you know who has the highest self-esteem in this country, a study showed that it was the inner-city children where crime is the highest. Psychologist and counselors went into these areas and told these kids that they have to love themselves. So they did, they fall in love with themselves, and the resultant was anything they need to make themselves feel loved was ok. That would be drugs, sex, stolen money.....

Other esteem will only come through being Christ-centered. Our nature is to look at for other people's faults. Man naturally does this to make themselves feel better. But if you will go through life treating others better than self, watch what will happen. I can tell you one thing, you will have a lot of friends. People will take joy in being around you, they will feel comfortable and at home with you. It is a choice to think of others better than yourself, but the resultant mind change will JOY.

but also for the interests of others.

Verse 4 is the key, until you show an interest in people you will not have a heart for them. Until you take time to hear their story, share in their life.....we don't really know them. I we really knew peoples stories, we would find all animosity would evaporate once we find out what is going on. We are to "look into" not "look down on". Maybe that co-workers marriage is ready to crumble, maybe she is self-conscious about her looks, or he is lonely. We will know their pressures, burdens, and troubles.

When we have animosity it is because we have not taken time to "look into". If we do, we will say God you have done a great work in that person, I can't wait to see your finished work. When I was in Ireland there was a fifteen-year-old name Wayne (who was somewhat slow), he kept coming in the building, even after he was told he is not allowed in the building. I was concerned cause we had several thousand dollars worth of music equipment we were using for our concerts. He began to frustrate me cause I kept catching him in the building. But one day I got to talk to Wayne and he told me his story of how as a baby his father was upset that he was crying so he threw him off the ground....our relationship changed that day. That night I had to guard the equipment while the fireworks were going on, Wayne came and sat next to me, and as a big firework went off, Wayne said "look there's Jesus."

Don't get so consumed in what they have done to you. They spat on Him, they cursed Him, and what does our Hero say, forgive them, for they know not what they do. Sit down and listen, look into their story, and you will then have compassion for them. Then you will pray for them and they will become Gemstones on your heart.

(Philippians 2:5 NKJV) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
(Philippians 2:6 NKJV) who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
(Philippians 2:7 NKJV) but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.
(Philippians 2:8 NKJV) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

v. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Again, here it is, over and over, He talks about the mind and how we think. Change your mind and God will change your heart.

The mind of Christ means the attitude Christ exhibited. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. After all, outlook determines outcome, if the outlook is selfish, the action will be divisive and destruction. If the outlook is selflessness, then the action will be towards unity and building up.

v. 6 who, being in the form of God

Form of God – means the outward expression of the inward nature.

V.6 did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

Jesus Christ is God, and is equal with the Father.

Jesus and the Father are One:

(John 10:30 KJV) I and my Father are one.

(John 14:7 KJV) If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

(John 14:8 KJV) Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

(John 14:9 KJV) Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

The Divinity of Christ – based on the Trinity:

(Deuteronomy 6:4 KJV) *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:* (this word for one, means a compound unity – like a team. The Ravens are 46 players, but they make up one team.)

(Genesis 1:26 KJV) *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

(John 1:1 KJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **and the Word was God.**

(John 1:2 KJV) The same was in the beginning with God.

(John 1:3 KJV) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

(John 1:14 KJV) **And the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

(Colossians 1:15 KJV) **Who is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of every creature:

(Colossians 1:16 KJV) For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

(Hebrews 1:1 KJV) God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

(Hebrews 1:2 KJV) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

(Hebrews 1:3 KJV) Who being the brightness of his glory, **and the express image of his person**, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

v. 7 but made Himself of no reputation

The word used here for reputation is “kenoo” fit means to make empty. Jesus emptied Himself.

Here we stand on Holy Ground. This is one of the most profound, most important theological Scriptures in the Bible. We have already seen that Jesus is God, so what did He empty Himself of, not His Deity (for we have already seen that He didn't).

He obviously stepped down from the throne and the recognition He deserves, and took the role of a servant, to do the will of the Father. He didn't come and assume the title President, CEO, or Emperor.

Look at the three things that only God can do. Be Omnipresent (all present), Omniscient (all knowing), and Omnipotent (all-powerful). Jesus did not exercise these freely when He became a man, He allowed Himself to be limited, just as man is.

(John 19:5 KJV) *Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!*

Lets look at how He limited Himself:

Omnipresent (all present):

Jesus was flesh and blood, He bled, and He could only be one place at any given time.
(John 11:21 KJV) Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

Omniscient (all knowing):

As God, He still knew all, yet He would seek the Father in prayer for guidance and strength. He stayed in contact with the Father, so He would do the will of the Father, not His will.

Jesus said He didn't even know when the earth would pass away.

(Mark 13:31 KJV) Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

(Mark 13:32 KJV) But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

He sought the Father in prayer.

(Matthew 26:36 KJV) Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

(Luke 3:21 KJV) Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

(Mark 6:46 KJV) And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

Omnipotent (all-powerful):

Jesus never would use His divine power for His own needs. I can't explain it, but even though He had the power of the universe coursing through His veins, He would not use it.

If He didn't empty Himself of these things, then He could not relate to us in terms of temptation, cause if He had all this power to use freely, then these things in His fleshly body would truly not be temptations, would they? The remembrance of his own sorrows and temptations, makes Christ mindful of the trials of his people, and ready to help them. He is ready and willing to succour (help) those who are tempted, and seek him. He became man, and was tempted, that he might be every way qualified to help his people, seeing that he had passed through the same temptations himself, but continued perfectly free from sin. Then let not the afflicted and tempted despond, or give place to Satan, as if temptations made it wrong for them to come to the Lord in prayer. No soul ever perished under temptation, that cried unto the Lord from real alarm at its danger, with faith and expectation of relief.

(Matthew 4:1 KJV) Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness **to be tempted of the devil.**

(Matthew 4:2 KJV) And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.

(Matthew 4:3 KJV) **And when the tempter** came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

(Matthew 4:4 KJV) But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

(Hebrews 2:16 KJV) For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

(Hebrews 2:17 KJV) Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

(Hebrews 2:18 KJV) **For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.**

(James 1:13 KJV) Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

(James 1:14 KJV) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Everything Jesus did, He did as directed by the Father and Empowered by the Holy Spirit. He walked closely to the Father, praying to Him daily, and believing in the Father's directives.

(John 5:16 NKJV) For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

(John 5:17 NKJV) But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

(John 5:18 NKJV) Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, **making Himself equal with God.**

(John 5:19 NKJV) Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.**

(John 5:20 NKJV) "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

Jesus did not miracles until after He was baptized and filled with the Spirit for the work of the ministry, to do the will of the Father. If you want a sumatuiou of the definition of the ministry it is this – To Do The Will Of The Father. Reminder He was filled with the Spirit since birth.

(Mark 1:9 KJV) And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

(Mark 1:10 KJV) And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

(Luke 4:13 KJV) And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

(Luke 4:14 KJV) And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

When Jesus performed miracles, he looked to heaven and did so by the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

(Mark 6:41 KJV) And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.

Why is this so important, cause it means everything Jesus did (the feeding of the 5000, walking on water, water to wine) He did not do them because of His own power, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. We can read the miracles and so what, that Jesus – He's God. But when we know the theology of Kenosis here in Philippians 2, His miracles take on a whole new meaning. It means that everything Jesus did as a man was through His personal contact with the Father, and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The miracles and strengths of Jesus now become examples to me.

I therefore have the same opportunity for empowering as Jesus did. Special things can happen through me. And any temptation that comes my way, I know that I have all the power to overcome it, just like Jesus did. God is all the willing to exercise the same power in and through me as he exercised it through Jesus.. Jesus was a man just as me, and everything He did, I can do to if I am lead and directed by the Father. These are real examples for me. I am to pray with the same type of consistency and expectancies as Jesus did. Amazing.....if you believe it.

(Philippians 2:9 NKJV) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

(Philippians 2:10 NKJV) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

(Philippians 2:11 NKJV) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

v.9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him

(James 4:10 KJV) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Who does God exalt?

v.7 those of no reputation,

v.7 those taking on the form of a bondservant

v.8 those who are humbled

v.8 and those who are obedient (even to the point of death)

These passages, known among scholars as the Doctrine of *Kenosis*, is among the most glorious sections of the New Testament. It follows the descent of the Lord Jesus Christ from the highest position in the entire universe, down to the death on the cross, and then up again to see Him

seated once more on the throne of His glory, before which every knee shall bow. In only a few verses, we sweep from Christ's life in eternity past to eternity future and are admitted to the breathtaking purposes of God in human salvation. These few verses teach the divinity of Christ, His preexistence, His equality with God the Father, and His incarnation and true humanity.

(Philippians 2:12 NKJV) Therefore, 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;

(Philippians 2:13 NKJV) for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

One of the most misquoted Scriptures. People take this one out of context and say you have to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. They miss the second half of that verse.....for it is God who works in you both to will and do for His good pleasure. You can't work out, what isn't in there already. You are saved, and God is working in you and through you. He who began a good work will be faithful to complete it. God has a plan for your life, and he works through the circumstances in your life to achieve what He has planned for you.

Every religion has rules that the follower is to keep, but only Christianity offers the power to keep those rules. It is God working through you, empowering you....the theology of Kenosis.

Our Lord's teaching can be summed up in this: the relationship that He demands for us is an impossible one unless He has done a super-natural work in us. Jesus Christ demands that His disciple does not allow even the slightest trace of resentment in his heart when faced with tyranny and injustice. No amount of enthusiasm will ever stand up to the strain that Jesus Christ will put upon His servant. Only one thing will bear the strain, and that is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ Himself—a relationship that has been examined, purified, and tested until only one purpose remains and I can truly say, "I am here for God to send me where He will." Everything else may become blurred, but this relationship with Jesus Christ must never be.

The Sermon on the Mount is not some unattainable goal; it is a statement of what will happen in me when Jesus Christ has changed my nature by putting His own nature in me. Jesus Christ is the only One who can fulfill the Sermon on the Mount.

If we are to be disciples of Jesus, we must be made disciples supernaturally. And as long as we consciously maintain the determined purpose to be His disciples, we can be sure that we are not disciples. Jesus says, "You did not choose Me, but *I chose you* . . ." ([John 15:16](#)). That is the way the grace of God begins. It is a constraint we can never escape; we can disobey it, but we can never start it or produce it ourselves. We are drawn to God by a work of His supernatural grace, and we can never trace back to find where the work began. Our Lord's making of a disciple is supernatural. He does not build on any natural capacity of ours at all. God does not ask us to do the things that are naturally easy for us—He only asks us to do the things that we are perfectly fit to do through

(Philippians 2:14 NKJV) Do all things without complaining and disputing,

(Philippians 2:15 NKJV) that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

(Philippians 2:16 NKJV) holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

When we empty ourselves, when we let this mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus, we give up the right to be right, even if we have been treated unjustly or wronged. The mind of Christ is to be in, is being obedient to the Father, by making myself of no reputation, humbling ourselves,

becoming a servant. A mind that submits to whatever the situation is, without whining or complaining.

(Philippians 2:17 NKJV) Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

(Philippians 2:18 NKJV) For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

Paul includes Jesus Himself in his pantheon of examples. As a friend of mine once observed, If you squeeze an orange, you get orange juice. If you squeeze a lemon, you get lemon juice. If you squeeze a Christian, you *should* get Christ.

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Seeing into the Heart of God – A Mind that can see people as God sees them. *(Philippians 1:7 KJV) Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart;*

Seeing into the Purposes of God – A Mind that sees above circumstances into the purposes of God. *(Philippians 1:12 KJV) But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;*

The Single Mind – A Mind that lives for Christ. *(Philippians 1:21 KJV) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

The Submitted Mind – A Mind that does the will of the Father. (Philippians 2:5 KJV) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

The Serving Mind – A Mind that looks to serve others. *(Philippians 2:20 KJV) For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

The Simple Mind – A Mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. *(Philippians 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before*

The Selfish Mind - A Mind that is of no use to God. *(Philippians 3:18 KJV) (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

The Settled Mind - A Mind that is content whatever the circumstances are. *(Philippians 4:6 NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

The Sacrificing Mind - A Mind that gives for others well-being. *(Philippians 4:15 KJV) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

Not to be repetitive, but to be reinforcing; Joy is based on how we think. **As a man thinks, therefore he is.** Your attitude truly does effect your altitude. How you think will effect how you feel. 12 times Paul talks about thinking (know/remember/understand/forget), and 12 times he speaks about our mind. He is calling these people to think rightly - to think correctly. Joyful, successful Christianity is based on this - you can't change your heart – only your mind. Only God can change your heart, and only you can change your mind (free will). So if I change my mind, God can change my heart.

(Proverbs 23:7 KJV) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

We have seen that in spite of external circumstance we can still have joy. The key is we chose to embrace a mindset that if I change my mind, God will change my heart. We all pose the power to make an attitude adjustment to reflect Christ like character.

Chapter 1 we studied The Single Mind –a mind that lives for Christ

Chapter 2 we studied The Submitted Mind – a mind that lives to do the will of the Father.

In this study we will look at the Mind that looks to serve others. And you will never be able to serve others fully, if you do not apply chapters one and two to your life, and way of thinking.

The Nike Company has the saying – Just do it. That's the same for Christian service, just do it. What ever comes your way, just do it. Nike means victory. When you serve the Lord and He is flowing through in you and through you, you can't help but enjoy that victorious Christian Life. Serving others is a key to joy, and the Lord wants us to see that, and if need be change our mind about serving others. We have died to self (Philp 1:21), we have the submitted mind that wants to do the will of the Father (Philp 2:5), so now just get out there and do it. God has already put it in you (Phil 2:12), now He wants to work it out of you.

(Philippians 2:12 NKJV) Therefore, 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;

(Philippians 2:13 NKJV) for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure

Go back to 2:1. If there is any consolation, you will do these things. Do what things? In this study we will look at the mind that looks to serve others. Ephesians is broken into two parts,

what God has done for you, and your responsibility of what to do with that. After seeing all that God has done for us, we will naturally want to serve Him and be obedient to Him. A key in prayer time is, Don't just pray for stuff you need, but have a time of thanksgiving reflecting on what He has done for you, and this will open your heart up to be appreciative of all that He has done for you.

What should I do people ask? Do what is on your heart.

*(Psalms 37:4 KJV) Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
(Psalms 37:5 KJV) Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

Peter walked on water not cause he had faith, but because Jesus said Peter come. That is what the Lord called him to do that was his working it out. You may not be asked to walk on water, but the Lord will ask you to do something, and that will be your working it out. Do what God has called you to do; it is a key to joy.

If God has called you to do it, then do it. Don't wait for the popular vote or people telling you it is great idea. So many opportunities are lost because people say, ohh don't do that, its been tried before, it will never work. If God has called you to do it, then just do it.

Without looking, who said lets do it, lets go take the promise land, after the children of Israel left Egypt. Caleb and Joshua – right. Now name just one of the other ten. You can't because they said it can't be done there giants, we are like grasshoppers.

(Numbers 13:3 KJV) And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel.

(Numbers 13:4 KJV) And these were their names: of the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur.

(Numbers 13:5 KJV) Of the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori.

(Numbers 13:6 KJV) Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

(Numbers 13:7 KJV) Of the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph.

(Numbers 13:8 KJV) Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea the son of Nun.

(Numbers 13:9 KJV) Of the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu.

(Numbers 13:10 KJV) Of the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi.

(Numbers 13:11 KJV) Of the tribe of Joseph, namely, of the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi.

(Numbers 13:12 KJV) Of the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli.

(Numbers 13:13 KJV) Of the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael.

(Numbers 13:14 KJV) Of the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi.

(Numbers 13:15 KJV) Of the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi.

(Numbers 13:16 KJV) These are the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua.

The majority said it can't be done. Be careful about sharing your vision with everyone, cause they can discourage you. If God said do it, then do it.

A note, be patient, Joseph had a vision, as a teen, but had to wait. He had to go through a pit, a prison before his vision came to pass. Don't let go of what God has put on your heart. But if God has brought it before you, go out and serve, let the Lord work through you, it is glorious being used by God. Ask God to show you the opportunities to serve that are opened to us each and every day. Just Do It.

(Philippians 2:19 NKJV) But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.

(Philippians 2:20 NKJV) For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.

(Philippians 2:21 NKJV) For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

Timothy was an example of the submitted mind. Paul said he had no one like Timothy. Timothy just naturally cared for them. The others were seeking their own, but Timothy just naturally cared. Timothy took the example of His Lord Jesus in servant hood. In servant hood – Jesus decided to show us the extent of His love. We can too.

With all the power of the Universe available to Him, He washed stinky feet. Right before the cross, before the anguish and pain to come (for my sins), He chose to serve. Ohh to be more like Jesus. To use all the power available to me to serve others, and not make a name for myself.

Where are the Heroes now? Who will step up and out. Who will rescue the lost, heal the sick?

Point 1 – a servant knows where he is going, he is secure –
“and that he was from God, and went to God”

(John 13:1 KJV) Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

(John 13:2 KJV) And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

(John 13:3 KJV) Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

Notice Philippians:

(Philippians 2:5 NKJV) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

(Philippians 2:6 NKJV) who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

We see that Jesus was secure because He knew who He was. He could empty himself and not worry that He still wasn't God. If we are going to be servants, we can't be insecure.

(Colossians 2:9 KJV) For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

(Colossians 2:10 KJV) And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

He is the fullness of God. He is complete; we are in Him so we are complete. If we know this at all times, we can do anything, because we know we are children of God. Secured in Christ, accepted by God.

Why do we serve in this mentality, of being emptied and made of no reputation? Verse 9, therefore..... *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name.* God will exalt you. James 4:10. Demand your rights, and you will be abased, humble yourself and you will be exalted by the Lord.

Point 2 - a servant will lay aside all their stuff so it won't get in the way –
“He laid aside His garment.”

(John 13:4 KJV) He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

When Jesus walked with His disciples, no one really sure which one was Jesus when they came to arrest Him.

Notice Philippians:

(Philippians 2:7 NKJV) but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Humility has no reputation. No reputation means no glory, no fame, no recognition, no title, no status. Don't call me Reverend, or seat me at the head of the table.

Your stuff will get in the way of serving the Lord, lay it all aside.

Point 3 – a servant is willing to get dirty –
“He took a towel and girded himself.”

(John 13:4 KJV) He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

(John 13:5 KJV) After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

Notice Philippians:

(Philippians 2:7 NKJV)taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Ministry that cost nothing, accomplishes nothing

Point 4 – a servant will serve even when not understood or appreciated –

“Peter said Lord don’t wash my feet.”

(John 13:6 KJV) Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

(John 13:7 KJV) Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

(John 13:8 KJV) Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

(John 13:9 KJV) Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

(John 13:10 KJV) Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

(John 13:11 KJV) For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

(John 13:12 KJV) So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

(John 13:13 KJV) Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

(John 13:14 KJV) If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

(John 13:15 KJV) For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

(John 13:16 KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

(John 13:17 KJV) If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Notice Philippians:

(Philippians 2:8 NKJV) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Servants are not noticed, rewarded, or invited to dinner (cause they are in the kitchen doing the dishes). They are not complimented, applauded, they are expected to do their work and not be seen.

How do you know if you are a servant, by checking to see how you react when someone treats you like one. We all like to think of ourselves as servants of the Lord, but when someone treats us like one we get all offended.

Serve somebody where you get absolutely no return form it. Find the person who needs help at the store, at the soup kitchen, at the Senior Home, somewhere where you totally give, and only got gave give back to you.

(Philippians 2:22 NKJV) But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.

(Philippians 2:23 NKJV) Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.

Paul is going to send Timothy. What does this mean? It means Timothy did not have an agenda of his own. He ministered to Paul, and now Paul says go here, and Timothy would go. He is an example of the submitted mind. He served Paul as a son would serve his father. I'll go where you want me to go, and do what you want me to do.

Henry the the 3rd a great German king there in Barvarra. But when he first came into power he was bummed. He didn't like the pressures, responsibilities, political intrigue, and the people looking to him for leadership. So he left the throne and went to a monastery. He went up to the abbot and said I want to just think and contemplate God and worship Him. I don't want this king stuff. The abbot said the first requirement I want is that you must be in total submission, your life is not your own. Can you submit to me and the Lord in total trust, can you do that? He said you bet. So he said good, now go back to the throne and serve God where He has planted you. I am now instructing you and requiring you to go back to the throne. So he served for forty years, and was one of the greatest kings. On his tombstone it said "King Henry the 3rd, The king learned to rule, by being obedient."

Paul is saying Timothy has a submitted mind, he is obedient.

(Philippians 2:8 NKJV) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

(Philippians 2:24 NKJV) But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.
(Philippians 2:25 NKJV) Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;

Epaphroditus was the one the church in Philippi sent with the love offering, when they heard Paul had a need. Paul couldn't say enough about this man – my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier. These three descriptions parallel what Paul wrote in the first chapter.

my brother – the fellowship in the gospel (Phil 1:5)

fellow worker - the furtherance of the gospel (Phil 1:12)

fellow soldier – the faith of the gospel (Phil 1:27)

Epaphroditus was a balance Christian. Balance is important in the Christian life. Some people emphasize fellowship so much that they forget the furtherance of the gospel. Others are so involved in defending the faith of the gospel, they neglect building fellowship with other believers. He did not fall into either of these traps. He was like Nehemiah, the man who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem with his sword in one hand, and his trowel in the other (Neh 4:17). You cannot build with a sword, nor battle with a trowel. It takes both to get the Lord's work done.

(Philippians 2:26 NKJV) since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.

(Philippians 2:27 NKJV) For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

Notice it was the Lord who healed Epaphroditus. People were getting healed from Paul's sweat bands, yet Paul couldn't heal Epaphroditus. In fact besides Epaphroditus Paul didn't heal Timothy or himself. Epaphroditus is right there with Paul, yet Paul doesn't heal him. Why are some healed, and others not? We will never know this side of heaven. One thing to know, this men who were not healed were men of great faith, doing the work of God, yet they were not immediately healed, or not healed at all. Don't beat yourself up, or let someone put a trip on you that you are sick because you have sinned, it is God's judgment upon you, or that you are not in God's favor. God will heal according to His sovereignty. Cancer, blindness, or whatever it is, just keep praying until God heals you or gives you a peace in the illness. Paul prayed three times, and though he wasn't healed, he had peace.

(2 Corinthians 12:7 KJV) And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

(2 Corinthians 12:8 KJV) For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

(2 Corinthians 12:9 KJV) And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

(2 Corinthians 12:10 KJV) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Paul heals others:

(Acts 19:11 KJV) And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

(Acts 19:12 KJV) So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

(Acts 14:8 KJV) And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

(Acts 14:9 KJV) The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, (Acts 14:10 KJV) Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

(Acts 28:8 KJV) And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.

Paul can't heal Timothy or Trophimus:

(1 Timothy 5:23 KJV) Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

(2 Timothy 4:20 KJV) Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

Paul can't heal Himself:

(2 Corinthians 12:7 KJV) And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

(Philippians 2:28 NKJV) Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful.

(Philippians 2:29 NKJV) Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem;

(Philippians 2:30 NKJV) because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

(Philippians 2:14 NKJV) Do all things without complaining and disputing,

(Philippians 2:15 NKJV) that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

(Philippians 2:16 NKJV) holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Look at the examples of this chapter. Jesus was obedient unto death. Paul for me to live is Christ and to die is gain. Timothy, he will come to you cause he will do as I say. Epaphroditus will stay if I ask him to, but he has a longing to be with you. He was submissive, not demanding or complaining about what he wanted or deserved.

Not complaining is a real secret of joy. You can't be a complainer and a servant. As we mentioned a true servant expects nothings. In your home, at work, or school, to not be complaining or making excuses of why you can't or won't. But just to say hey I'm going to be come obedient to the point of death, and go with the flow, let them put the squeeze on me, and let the living water of Jesus flow out of me. In so doing you will have real joy. Here Epaphroditus could have said that's it for me, or spent his time complaining, but instead he wants to go out and serve. Don't murmur or complain. Your joy will be ripped off when you murmur or complain.

Want to be different in this world, don't murmur or complain. Don't excuse or explain away your behavior. When you get good at making excuses, then that is all you'll be good for. American garbage disposal eat better than 30% of the world's population. American dogs eat better than 60% of the world. What is there to complain about?

When people complain, you praise. When they say this job stinks, you say how thankful you are to be employed. When they say the weather is too hot, you remind them of your trip to Nicaragua. Your joy will be ripped off when you find yourself in those positions of murmuring and complaining. But your joy will abound when you esteem others better than self, and let this mind be in you. When people see us being squeezed in the world, they will see what comes out. Squeeze a sponge, and you'll see if it soaked up red cool-aid, orange juice, or water. Squeeze a Christian and you'll see if they soaked up the world, or Christ by what comes out.

Let his mind be in you.. It is already in you, the Lord wants to work it out

**End Study: The Serving Mind – A Mind that looks to serve others
– 2:19-30**

The Simple Mind – A Mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. – 3:1-16

Detailed Outline for the Book of Philippians:

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Seeing into the Plan of God – A Mind that sees God has a plan for your life. *(Philippians 1:6 KJV) Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Seeing into the Heart of God – A Mind that can see people as God sees them. *(Philippians 1:7 KJV) Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart;*

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Philippians is the epistle of joy.

Joy is based on how we think. **As a man thinks, therefore he is.** Your attitude truly does effect your altitude. How you think will effect how you feel. 12 times Paul talks about thinking (know/remember/understand/forget), and 12 times he speaks about our mind. He is calling these people to think rightly - to think correctly. Joyful, successful Christianity is based on this - you can't change your heart – only your mind. Only God can change your heart, and only you can change your mind (free will). So if I change my mind, God can change my heart.

(Proverbs 23:7 KJV) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

Chapter 1, the single mind that lives for Christ. Chapter 2 the submitted, that lives to do the will of the Father. And now Chapter 3, the simple mind, a mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. The past good or bad can rob you of today. Psychiatrists offices are filled with people who can't live today, cause what happened in the past. People dwelling so much on the past, it is crippling today. This whole passage is to have the simple mind, which forgets the past and lives for today and the future.

(Philippians 3:1 NKJV) Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.

It seems like Paul is ready to wrap it up, but as a typical preacher he is only half way done, he still has two more chapters to go. No, No actually he is saying “above all.....rejoice”. Keep it simple. When you have a choice between complaining or rejoicing, then rejoice. When you have the choice to think of negatives, or positives, take the positives. Change the way you think, and God will change your heart and you will find yourself walking a walk of joy.

We can't always rejoice in our circumstances, but we can always rejoice in the Lord. Paul is in prison, but He is still rejoicing, he is rejoicing cause he is in the Lord, seated in the heavenly as he taught us in Ephesians. Man he has a praise song on his lips as he writes this, you can hear him singing it through the ink written on this paper.

(Nehemiah 8:10 KJV) Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

The children of Israel were passing through much misery, when Nehemiah reminded them that the joy of the Lord is your strength. Rejoicing in the Lord, will bring you strength.

But he says, be careful, here is something that will rob your joy, steal your praise song.

(Philippians 3:2 NKJV) Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

Paul is writing about joy, being joyful, well here is something that will rob your joy - circumcision. Paul would teach freedom from the law, through the grace of the cross. However men would come behind Paul and say hey, you got to be circumcised too, if you are to be saved and spiritual. They equated the spiritual to the external, which is what you can see the flesh doing. People are still bringing their trips on man today, adding to the cross. If you are spiritual, then you will do this or that. Dogs sniff around, and that is what these men would do, they would sniff around until they found sin in someone life.

Paul says here is the spiritual person:

(Philippians 3:3 NKJV) For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

(Philippians 3:4 NKJV) though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

The true spiritual man will do the following:

worship God in the Spirit, - We can't help but have a praise song on our heart when we reflect on what God has done for us, and is doing in us.

rejoice in Christ Jesus, and - We rejoice in one thing - the Lord. We are IN HIM - the gospel summed up.

have no confidence in the flesh - We know that in our flesh there dwells no good thing. We know we are capable of anything, and it is Gods grace that keeps us.

Now Paul said if there was anyone that could have confidence in the flesh, then it should be him. If you guys (these dogs as Paul calls them), want to line up flesh against flesh, then I'll put mine up against anyone - and he is literally guaranteeing that no one will be able to stand against him.

(Philippians 3:5 NKJV) circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

(Philippians 3:6 NKJV) concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

1. circumcised the eighth day: He is saying I came from good parents, they upheld the Mosaic Law. I've kept the law since I was eight days old.

2. of the stock of Israel: an Israelite from birth. Born in Israel not Egypt or anywhere else.

3. of the tribe of Benjamin: the first King of Israel, Saul came out of the tribe of Israel. When the nation split, only the tribe of Benjamin stayed loyal to the house of David.

4. a Hebrew of the Hebrews; I'm a pedigree. Both my parents were Hebrews, and my grandparents, and great grandparents and so on.

5. concerning the law, a Pharisee; there could never be more than 6000 Pharisees at any time, Paul was one of them. I worked my way to the top. The Pharisee inspected the people to see if they could come into the temple. They inspected the sacrifices to see if they were worthy of offering to the Lord.

6. concerning zeal, persecuting the church; so zealous he would kill for his cause, and be applauded for it. He was involved, not a bystander.

7. concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless: He kept all the outward display of the law of all 613 laws (the religious leader took the Levitical Law and added 613 laws to it)

Yet he will say next, all dung.....and that is putting it politely. He said flush it, it means nothing. Hold your nose, it stinks, and he goes on to say make sure you don't step in it like I did. Little crude for a Bible study, but maybe Paul is trying to make a point to us.

(Philippians 3:7 NKJV) But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

(Philippians 3:8 NKJV) Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Notice the number seven here. There are seven claims he makes in the flesh. He would be complete in the flesh, yet he says I count them all as garbage.

People go from a religion to a relationship, then somewhere they go back to a religion, by saying I need to do this and this to be holy. How sad it is when we cast something off, something that hindered our walk, and then we go back to it.

We all need to look at our lives and say is there anything in my life that I am holding on to that is keeping me from moving into a deeper relationship with the Lord. Whether it is college, a house, a job, or even a self-righteous attitude that I am better than the people in the world cause I don't do the things of the world.. All that have, that job, house, education is all a gift from the Lord. If we start to think that we are something, for we were so smart, so talented, we steal glory and credit from the Lord.

Let all your credentials go, saved 5years, 10, or 20. Served in the Mission field, a Sunday school teacher. Let is go. It is easy to think we are there cause we look at our credentials, but they can block us. We think almost don't want to admit that there is an area or areas that we really fall short in, cause if we admit it, then its like 10 years down the drain, my Bible College degree a waste. The most freeing things is to just know you are a hopeless sinner, and cry out to the Lord for help. People will think, I've been saved 10 years, I can't admit to anyone, not even myself, that I have a lust problem, or anger problem. I'll lose my standing, and respect. You don't have to confess before people, but be honest with yourself, take it to the Lord and have it dealt with. It's 30 years later and Paul says he still hasn't made it. Change the way you think about these things.

(Philippians 3:9 NKJV) and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

Pastor Chuck tells the story, an analogy. There was a poor girl who skimped and saved to get into college. Once in school she worked to pay for books and needs. Her senior year came and it was time for the senior ball. She was delighted top be going, yet apprehensive at the same time. She did not have the money to buy a new dress, so she went to the fabric shop and bought a simple pattern template, and some inexpensive material. She did her best to sew it together for the big event. When the girls in the dorm saw her, they smiled kindly, but even she could see the cheap material and unprofessional seams, and the not so right fit. But what could she do, she did the best she could do. So feeling blue she went for a walk, and out front of the dorm was a silver rolls Royce; the door opened and out stepped Lady Bountiful. Lady Bountiful says come here child, come with me. So they rode to Beverly Hills, Rodeo Drive, and Lady Bountiful takes her into the finest dress shop on Rodeo Drive. As each model modeled dresses, the young girl watched, until the perfect dress appeared, and her eyes lit up. Lady Bountiful says do you like

this one, she says absolutely. So Lady Bountiful says how much, they answer 48 thousand dollars, so the young girls heart sank, Lady Bountiful says wrap it, we'll take it. The girl goes upstairs, and tries it on for all the other girls and they make a big fuss over it. They ask her, how did you ever make such a beautiful dress. She says I didn't, Lady Bountiful bought it for me. She took my old dress and bought me this one.

That is the essence of Christianity, we trade in our religion and efforts of trying to be righteous, and we say Lord robe me in your righteousness. He is the merciful, bountiful giver of this wonderful robe of righteousness. Our garments were cheap and dirty.

Let it go, and take it on by faith, not work.

They ripped His robe off, so that we may put His robe on:

(Matthew 27:28 KJV) And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

(Matthew 27:29 KJV) And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

(Matthew 27:30 KJV) And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

(Matthew 27:31 KJV) And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

(2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV) For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

He clothes us:

(Luke 15:22 KJV) But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.

(Isaiah 61:10 KJV) I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

(Philippians 3:10 NKJV) that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

That I may know Him, not about Him. Not that I know a bunch of Bible verses and quotes, but the intimate reality of Him.

The power of His resurrection, for He is alive. He walked amongst men, now He lives amongst us in the hearts of the believers by his Spirit.

We can know Him intimately, we can talk to Him. He has risen, He didn't die 2000 years ago and now we just study His examples.....no, no He is Alive, and we experience intimacy with Him daily.

How do you really know the Lord, its during the times of suffering. When things are bad, when I'm cruising and things are good I don't know Him the way I do when I discover Him while going through pain and tragedy. People say I want to know the Lord, I want to know His power, but I don't want to go through hard times to get there. You can't experience the resurrection until after the suffering and death. Jesus did not experience the resurrection until after the cross and death.

How many did we throw into the fire asked Nebuchadnezzar? Well then why do I see four, and the fourth is like the Son of God. The three knew Him, in the fellowship of suffering, in the heated times if you would. Nebuchadnezzar says come on out of there, if it was me and I was fellowshiping with God, Id no, you come in here. If you have been through hard times, and came to that point of peace and the experiencing of God in a way you never had before, you right now are thinking to yourself how you miss those times. As painful as it was, it was like you

experienced Jesus like never before. The world is opposite, the world will say avoid difficulties at all cost. The world says avoid the suffering, and then rejoicing will come.

(Daniel 3:24 KJV) Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

(Daniel 3:25 KJV) He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

(Daniel 3:26 KJV) Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

Notice the order here in verse 10. Knowing the Lord, knowing His suffering, then made conformable to His death.

**(Philippians 3:10 NKJV) that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death
(Philippians 3:11 NKJV) if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

Paul is saying being conformed to His death. This takes us back to the submitted mind that lives to do the will of the father, even unto the point of death.

Side Note: Being conformed could also translate into a literal death; remember in the times of this writing Christians are being killed. 6 million in the first 300 years of the church. There are Christians being persecuted today in the Sudan, Pakistan, and Iran just to name a few. In the future as told in the book of Revelation, Christians will be killed and persecuted at levels never known before. Possibly it may not be after the rapture, it could start before the rapture of intolerance to those who say there is only one way.

being conformed to His death, There is an order if you want to know Him. So even if you are going through tough times today you can rejoice cause you are going to see Him and know Him in a powerful and real way. So the order is we know He is alive, and in times of suffering we fellowship with Him, and choosing to say I will die if that what it takes to see the power of your resurrection which will cause me to know you intimately.

What ever it takes Lord; if the business has to die, then let it die, if my health has to go then let it go, whatever it means Lord I know I will be conformed to you - through death. As long as I try to keep this alive, or make that easy, or not allow that uncomfortable situation to happen, as long as I try to protect myself or cocoon myself, then Lord I will never know you. So Lord I chose to conform myself to your death. I submit to the will of the Father. Do what you want to in my life. You may say no thanks, that's not for me. Then you will never be happy - that's the irony.

(Matthew 16:22 KJV) Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

(Matthew 16:23 KJV) But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

We say be it far from me Lord, not unemployment, not a pay cut, not this boss, or that job, not my hair, not these wrinkles, not my softball playing or bowling league.

We are just like Peter, we do not see all that the Lord is doing in the here and now, the present. I remind you that Paul is writing this from prison, not the Hilton on Maui.

There are other things that need to die in our life – things of the past

(Philippians 3:12 NKJV) Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

(Philippians 3:13 NKJV) Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

(Philippians 3:14 NKJV) I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 3:15 NKJV) Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

(Philippians 3:16 NKJV) Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

I'm not perfect, I haven't made it yet. Perfection is what Christ will ultimately do in us. He who began a good work, will be faithful to complete. Heaven is the completion.

I'm not done yet, I'm not where I need to be, but this one thing I do, that I do have down. I forget the things behind, and press towards the High Calling.

There are things in the past that you have done that you need to let go of. What your father did to you, an ex-spouse, a leader you trusted. Some people can't go ahead cause so involved in the past. Defeats of the past will discourage you and shutoff initiations of the future.

1. circumcised the eighth day: He is saying I came from good parents, they upheld the Mosaic Law. I've kept the law since I was eight days old. - Don't hold onto what your parent did or didn't do when they raised you.

2. of the stock of Israel: an Israelite from birth. Born in Israel not Egypt or anywhere else. - Don't hold where you were born and raised. - Don't hold on to where you were raised. Ohh if only I could have grown up in the country other than the city.

3. of the tribe of Benjamin: the first King of Israel, Saul came out of the tribe of Benjamin. When the nation split, only the tribe of Benjamin stayed loyal to the house of David. Don't hold onto ohh if only my parents didn't get divorced. My dad wasn't a king, he was a drunk and was never there for me.

4. a Hebrew of the Hebrews; I'm a pedigree. Both my parents were Hebrews, and my grandparents, and great grandparents and so on. Don't hold onto that you were orphaned, or abused by in-laws or relatives, that you didn't have a pedigree family. That you had to work hard to just survive, or still do.

5. concerning the law, a Pharisee; there could never be more than 6000 Pharisees at any time, Paul was one of them. I worked my way to the top. The Pharisees inspected the people to see if they could come into the temple. They inspected the sacrifices to see if they were worthy of offering to the Lord. - Don't hold onto your looks or lack of, your busted education.

6. concerning zeal, persecuting the church; so zealous he would kill for his cause, and be applauded for it. He was involved, not a bystander. - Don't hold on to things that failed. Maybe you poured yourself into something and it failed, a marriage, a job, a business, a relationship. Let it go, move on.

7. concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless: He kept all the outward display of the law of all 613 laws. Don't hold onto your past failure in sin.....ohh if only I didn't do this, commit adultery, do drugs. You are forgiven, let it go, move on.

How do we get there practically:

When the thought comes into your head you have to say I am not going to entertain this thought, it has to go. I choose not to think about it, cause I know it will rob and possibly destroy me. I am a new creation, and the power of God is greater than my past. Apply the theology of Kenosis. Know God will give you the power to not think and dwell on these thoughts.

(2 Corinthians 10:3 KJV) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

(2 Corinthians 10:4 KJV) (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

(2 Corinthians 10:5 KJV) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

We think that letting go of the past goes back years, but lots of times you need to only go back a day. It is too easy to develop a critical spirit.

(1 Thessalonians 5:16 KJV) Rejoice evermore.

(1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV) Pray without ceasing.

(1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Forget what your spouse did, or didn't do yesterday, or ten years ago. Forget about how you got treated at work, or snubbed at church. Let go, forget the past and look to what God has for you in the future. Dwell the good things. How many times do you actually just sit and dwell on all the good things your spouse has done for you, or employer, that family member. We don't do we, its not our natural behavior. Gives thanks, rather than negatives. Watch how your life will change if you do, why? Cause you will be replacing grip with praise, and you will see all that you have and rejoice, and be thankful for all the Lord has giving you.

(Philippians 3:16 NKJV) Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

let us be of the same mind: It is a decision a person makes, to have this mind – the simple mind. The one thing you do- forget the past, move on. Change your mind, and God will change your heart.

End Study: The Simple Mind – A Mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. – 3:1-16

The Selfish Mind - A Mind that is of no use to God. – 3:17-4:3

Detailed Outline for the Book of Philippians:

The Seeing Mind:

Seeing into the Plan of God – A Mind that sees God has a plan for your life. *(Philippians 1:6 KJV) Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Seeing into the Heart of God – A Mind that can see people as God sees them. *(Philippians 1:7 KJV) Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart;*

Seeing into the Purposes of God – A Mind that sees above circumstances into the purposes of God. *(Philippians 1:12 KJV) But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;*

The Single Mind – A Mind that lives for Christ. *(Philippians 1:21 KJV) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

The Submitted Mind – A Mind that does the will of the Father. (Philippians 2:5 KJV) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

The Serving Mind – A Mind that looks to serve others. *(Philippians 2:20 KJV) For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

The Simple Mind – A Mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. *(Philippians 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before*

The Selfish Mind - A Mind that is of no use to God. *(Philippians 3:18 KJV) (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

The Settled Mind - A Mind that is content whatever the circumstances are. *(Philippians 4:6 NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

The Sacrificing Mind - A Mind that gives for others well-being. *(Philippians 4:15 KJV) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

Joy is based on how we think. **As a man thinks, therefore he is.** Your attitude truly does effect your altitude. How you think will effect how you feel. 12 times Paul talks about thinking (know/remember/understand/forget), and 12 times he speaks about our mind. He is calling these people to think rightly - to think correctly. Joyful, successful Christianity is based on this - you can't change your heart – only your mind. Only God can change your heart, and only you can change your mind (free will). So if I change my mind, God can change my heart.

(Proverbs 23:7 KJV) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

Chapter 1 we studied the single mind, a mind that lives for Christ. Chapter 2 the submitted mind, a mind that lives to do the will of the Father. Chapter 3 the simple mind, a mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. And in the second half of chapter 3, the Selfish Mind, the mind that is of no use to Christ. I doubt that any of us truly wants to or will admit to having a selfish mind, but a selfish mind will rob you of joy, cause if you want to make yourself miserable, think of yourself. You want to be miserable, try to satisfy a selfish mind, it will never be pleased. This study also gives us the warning to watch out for those with selfish minds, cause they will draw us away from our true calling, the upward calling of Jesus Christ, and the high calling of heavenly citizenship.

(Philippians 3:17 NKJV) Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

v.17 join in following my example

At work we are building radar's, from radars that go in the nose of jet fighters, to commercial jets. For every radar we build we have what we call the Golden Unit. That Unit is the benchmark on what all others are to be built to. When we have trouble with a unit, something doesn't look right, we go back and compare it to the Golden Unit. Whatever is wrong, has to be corrected to match the Golden Unit. Ten years from now when we go and start to build another 100 radars, we will pull out the Golden Unit and say, build these next 100 to be identical to this Golden Unit. The analogy is obvious, Jesus is our Golden Unit, and we are to match ourselves to Him. Paul will say a bold statement here, follow me, not that Paul is saying he is the Golden Unit, because in 1 Corinthians 11:1 he tells us follow him as he follows Christ.

(1 Corinthians 11:1 KJV) Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

(Ephesians 5:1 KJV) Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

The KJV gives a richer look at this verse:

(Philippians 3:17 KJV) Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

The word follow there in 1 Corinthians means, 3402 mimetes, mim-ay-tace'; from G3401; an **imitator**:--follower: it is where we get our word mimic.

Paul is saying he is mimicking Christ and he wants us to be co-mimickers.

The word following here in Philippeans, means 4831 summimetes, soom-mim-ay-tace'; from a presumed comp. of G4862 and G3401; a **co-imitator**, i.e. fellow votary:--follower together. From the root - 3401. mimeomai, mim-eh'-om-ahee; mid. from mimos (a "mimic"); to imitate:--follow.

Paul in boldness is saying go ahead, copy my walk. Can we say that? I had to examine my life as I studied this, and had to admit that if they ever did a reality show on me, there would be some shows that I would be very ashamed of. Having people follow us should be something all Christians should desire. Saying ohh don't follow me, you don't want to do that, that is not humility, that is a confession that you need to get serious and busy about getting every area of your life right. **Salvation is free, discipleship will cost you your life.**

The word that Paul uses for "ensample" here in verse 17 is "tapor", and its primary usage had reference to an impression, or mark, made by a blow. It was the impress or figure made by a seal or die. It was the word Thomas used of our Lord when he said,

(John 20:25 KJV) The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print (impression) of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

To Thomas the marks of the crucifixion were all he had to by, and all other impressions were to him false. Unless we are imitators of Christ, we leave false impressions with others as to what Christianity really is.

v.17 and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

To Walk - to walk with someone, you notice you have to get into the same stride with each other, otherwise you'll be walking apart. Yea you may be going the same way, but you are not in stride with each other, therefore missing out on conversations together. Paul will go on to talk about our conversation in verse 20, it is heavenly not earthly. We need to be walking with the Savior have that heavenly conversation.

(Philippians 3:20 KJV) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

(Genesis 5:24 KJV) And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

The true test of a person's spiritual life and character is not what he does in the extraordinary moments of life, but what he does during the ordinary times when there is nothing tremendous or exciting happening. A person's worth is revealed in his attitude toward the ordinary things of life when he is not under the spotlight (see John 1:35-37 and John 3:30). It is painful work to get in step with God and to keep pace with Him—it means getting your second wind spiritually. In learning to walk with God, there is always the difficulty of getting into His stride, but once we have done so, the only characteristic that exhibits itself is the very life of God Himself.

The individual person is merged into a personal oneness with God, and God's stride and His power alone are exhibited.

It is difficult to get into stride with God, because as soon as we start walking with Him we find that His pace has surpassed us before we have even taken three steps. He has different ways of doing things, and we have to be trained and disciplined in His ways. It was said of Jesus—"He will not fail nor be discouraged . . ." (Isaiah 42:4) because He never worked from His own individual standpoint, but always worked from the standpoint of His Father. And we must learn to do the same. Spiritual truth is learned through the atmosphere that surrounds us, not through intellectual reasoning. It is God's Spirit that changes the atmosphere of our way of looking at things, and then things begin to be possible which before were impossible. Getting into God's stride means nothing less than oneness with Him. It takes a long time to get there, but keep at it. Don't give up because the pain is intense right now—get on with it, and before long you will find that you have a new vision and a new purpose. (Oswald Chambers)

Now the basics of walking with the Lord is being in the word, in prayer, in fellowship, all of which Paul has covered in these past chapters and verses, but he gets very serious here, and says watch out, for there are people that will break your stride.

(Philippians 3:17 NKJV) Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

(Philippians 3:18 NKJV) For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

(Philippians 3:19 NKJV) whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame; who set their mind on earthly things.

Note their walk, Paul is saying anybody that doesn't walk like us, watch them. This is the epistle of joy, yet Paul is weeping. These types of people will steal your joy, rob you of your intimacy that you have with the Lord.

Paul is saying note their walk, of course their favorite saying is ohh you point out the spec in my eye and you have a plank. Excuse me, that is not a spec in your eye, that is a Redwood, you could hollow out the center and open a visitor center inside it. They say this cause they are trying to divert attention from their sins, they have learned how to divert and manipulate people, and they know if they can make you feel bad, then you will back-off of them.

Godlessness in the Last Days

(2 Timothy 3:1 KJV) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

(2 Timothy 3:2 KJV) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

(2 Timothy 3:3 KJV) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

(2 Timothy 3:4 KJV) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

*(2 Timothy 3:5 KJV) **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.***

(2 Timothy 3:6 KJV) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

(2 Timothy 3:7 KJV) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Having a form of godliness, They have the talk, but not the walk. Look at them here, they have the selfish mind and are of no use to God, andof no use to you.

**whose god is their belly -
whose glory is in their shame -
who set their mind on earthly things**

whose god is their belly - Their principle aim is the gratification of their own pleasures and the pampering of their own appetites.

(Romans 16:18 KJV) For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

whose glory is in their shame – Instead of giving glory to God, these people heap praises upon themselves. Ironically they prided themselves in the things they should have been ashamed of.

who set their mind on earthly things. – To be spiritually minded means to look at earth from heavens point of view.

(James 4:4 KJV) Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

*(Colossians 3:2 KJV) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
(Colossians 3:3 KJV) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

The spiritually minded believer is not attracted by the things of the world, they will make their decision on the basis of eternal values and not the passing fads of society.

Love them, but if need be, from a distance. They will rob you and lead you into destruction, though you may be saved, your life will become empty – cause the joy of the Lord will be doused by these three things.

Deuteronomy 13:4-10

(Deuteronomy 13:4 NKJV) "You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

(Deuteronomy 13:5 NKJV) "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.

(Deuteronomy 13:6 NKJV) "If your brother, the son of your mother, your son or your daughter, the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, secretly entices you, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers,

(Deuteronomy 13:7 NKJV) "of the gods of the people which are all around you, near to you or far off from you, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth,

(Deuteronomy 13:8 NKJV) "you shall not consent to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him or conceal him;

(Deuteronomy 13:9 NKJV) "but you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.

(Deuteronomy 13:10 NKJV) "And you shall stone him with stones until he dies, because he sought to entice you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Imagine that next time a so called brother suggests you do something contrary to the word, and then you bend down, pick up a rock and say go ahead I'm listening. We need to be that serious about sin in our lives.

The contrast, in verse 20 Paul goes on to speak of eternal heavenly life, as compared to those whose end will be destruction.

(Philippians 3:20 NKJV) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

(Philippians 3:21 NKJV) who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Ever notice how much Paul talks about heaven. That is a key to Christian joy, the reality of heaven will only become a reality in your life, if you think about. The reality and continual remembrance of your heavenly citizenship is vital. First it will be deterrence against sinning, cause you will remind yourself heaven is near, and I'm the King's kid. Secondly, we must keep in the forefront of our minds how precious we are to the King. When we realize/remember that we are a treasure to God, we will not cheapen ourselves, be down on ourselves, or give up on

ourselves. The hope of our calling makes Philp 1:6 real and alive. He who began a good work in me will be faithful to complete. Whatever the world has to offer pales in comparison of what God is doing presently in me today, and His ultimate future – heaven.

I refer you back to the Single Mind. Depart was used by soldiers and it meant to breakdown camp and move on. Take down the tents (see 2 Cor 5:1-8). The tent we live in is taken down in death, and the spirit goes home to be with Christ. Sailors used it to pull anchor and set sail. Farmers used it to take a yoke off an animal. In the political world it was used to describe setting free a prisoner. To depart means to laying aside the burdens and bondages and be free. Oh to be free from this sinful body, and to no longer struggle with the flesh.

(Philippians 4:1 NKJV) Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

(Philippians 4:2 NKJV) I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

2136. Euodia, yoo-od-ee'-ah; from the same as G2137; fine travelling; Euodia, a Chr. woman:--Euodias. 2137. euodoo, yoo-od-o'-o; from a comp. of G2095 and G3598; to help on the road, i.e. (pass.) succeed in reaching; fig. to succeed in business affairs:--(have a) prosper (-ous journey).

4941. Suntucho, soon-too'-khay; from G4940; an accident; Syntyche, a Chr. female:--Syntyche. 4940. suntugchano, soon-toong-khan'-o; from G4862 and G5177; to chance together, i.e. meet with (reach):--come at.

Two different personalities. One was successful in business, the other kinda just took things as they came. One was organized, the other was unorganized. One had a clear direct vision or plan, the other just went with what came up. Both can be blessing, but when they butt heads with one another, each demanding their own way....the resultant is bad. Yet the two of them together can reach twice as many people. One personality will draw a certain type of people, the other will draw a different type. The different personalities in the church will cause for a diversity of gifts in the church. You need an organizer to plan a mission trip, a lets just see what happens type person won't get the job done. However, an organizer can lose sight of the mission in the midst of the details and planning. That is when you need to lets see what happens person to step up and go with whats happening and reach the people who are outside the plans and details.

Avoid the critical spirit, which your way is the only way. I can remember two very critical thoughts I had early in my walk. I remember a girl in the church who was part of the "Camero" club. I thought what a waste, all these people in need of ministry and she is wasting time and money on a car, and showing off her car. That was her ministry as she told me, I'm like saying to myself, yea right. Well, the Lord showed me what He was doing through her, and humbled me greatly. I started meeting people in the church and saying what made you start coming here, and they said I met so and so at the Camero club, and she invited me to church, I ended up getting saved. She used the Camero as a bridge, just as Jesus used the water at the well, to reach the women who had five husbands, and was living with another out of marriage.

The other was a mission. I remember a friend going to France on a mission trip, and raising support. I was saved maybe six months, and thought I was spiritual, and said what a waste of money, all the needs in our community, and they take a vacation to France. It wasn't until 2 years later when I went on my first trip that I realized what missions was all about. How God was more interested in the minister than the ministry. How God would use that week away to kindle a fire in the heart that would carry over into every area of that persons life, form self, to family, to work, to and local ministry. When I came home from Russia, I shared the gospel with more people in the States, than I did in Russia, cause everybody was asking what did I do over there, and why? How funny, today one of ministries is coordinating mission trips, to Ireland. God knows how to humble you.

We need to lay our critical spirits and different personalities aside, and just say Lord what is that you have for me to do.....and I'll do it. And as for getting along with others "***I implore you to be of the same mind in the Lord.***"

(Deuteronomy 20:19 KJV) When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an ax against them: for thou mayest eat of them, and thou shalt not cut them down (for the tree of the field is man's life) to employ them in the siege:

(Deuteronomy 20:20 KJV) Only the trees which thou knowest that they be not trees for meat, thou shalt destroy and cut them down; and thou shalt build bulwarks against the city that maketh war with thee, until it be subdued.

(Philippians 4:3 NKJV) And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

Clement means merciful; Here is a ministry key, if you want to be in the ministry in any way, you have to be merciful. It's that simple. Obviously the self Mind, as spoken of previously, had/have no mercy. The selfish mind will serve self, at others expense. The contrast, Destruction versus the Book of Life.

**End Study: The Selfish Mind - A Mind that is of no use to God. –
3:17-4:3**

The Settled Mind - A Mind that is content whatever the circumstances are – 4:4-13

Detailed Outline for the Book of Philippians:

The Seeing Mind:

Seeing into the Plan of God – A Mind that sees God has a plan for your life. *(Philippians 1:6 KJV) Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Seeing into the Heart of God – A Mind that can see people as God sees them. *(Philippians 1:7 KJV) Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart;*

Seeing into the Purposes of God – A Mind that sees above circumstances into the purposes of God. *(Philippians 1:12 KJV) But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;*

The Single Mind – A Mind that lives for Christ. *(Philippians 1:21 KJV) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

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The Simple Mind – A Mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. *(Philippians 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before*

The Selfish Mind – A Mind that is of no use to God. *(Philippians 3:18 KJV) (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

The Settled Mind – A Mind that is content whatever the circumstances are. *(Philippians 4:6 NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

The Sacrificing Mind – A Mind that gives for others well-being. *(Philippians 4:15 KJV) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

As we have said, Joy is based on how we think. **As a man thinks, therefore he is.** Your attitude truly does effect your altitude. How you think will effect how you feel. 12 times Paul talks about thinking (know/remember/understand/forget), and 12 times he speaks about our mind. He is calling these people to think rightly - to think correctly. Joyful, successful Christianity is based on this - you can't change your heart – only your mind. Only God can change your heart, and only you can change your mind (free will). So if I change my mind, God can change my heart.

(Proverbs 23:7 KJV) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

In this study we will look at the **The Settled Mind** - A Mind that is content whatever the circumstances are. *(Philippians 4:6 NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

Anxiousness:

August 20, 1998 after a tomahawk missile was launched into Afghanistan – Usma Bin Laden said, the war has just begun, and we will respond with action, not words.

- To date over 85 different terrorist groups have been identified.
- 17 nations hostile to the USA have nuclear capabilities – North Korea joined this week.
- A sniper has killed 10, and promises that your children are not safe (10/23/02).
- And the CIA chief says the voice chatter they have intercepted from these terrorist groups are as high as they were the weeks leading up to September 11th

What is it that makes you anxious? Maybe it is something even closer to home. Finances, your kids, your marriage, your age, your health. Lets face it we all things we worry about.

Worry is the trickle that leads to a stream.

This study is the culmination of everything we have studied, in order to be content, in order to not let worrying consume us, we have to apply all that we studied. Paul will say (in 4:11) I have learned to be content – it didn't just happen. Lets see what the Lord wants to teach us.

(Philippians 4:4 NKJV) Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

From this verse it appears that the spirits of the saints were running low. They were cast down, disheartened, depressed. How easily we can become discouraged. How refreshing to meet a brother or sister in Christ who rejoices everywhere and under all circumstances. Too frequently our circumstances determine the extent and expression of joy. The division and disunity in the church robbed those believers of joy. People creeping in and drawing others away to serve their belly, robbed their joy. When we permit ourselves to stay on unholy paths we cannot be joyful.

He is not saying rejoice in your circumstances, but in the Lord.

Verse 4:1, started with, therefore, that has to take us back to 3:20-21, and Paul talking that our bodies will be changed, we are heaven bound, citizens of heaven, with our names written in the Book of Life.

(Philippians 4:5 NKJV) Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

Let your gentleness be known – Hey ladies (Euodia and Syntyche) the world is watching.

The Lord is at hand – he is leading into the next verse, about being anxious for nothing.

At hand - the word hand (eggus), means to squeeze or throttle near (lit. or fig., of place or time):-- from, at hand, near, nigh (at hand, unto), ready

Not only is here near you, it is His hand that is upon you, squeezing, throttling you, it is He who is deciding how much pressure you are to feel. Sometimes we scream throttle back, throttle back, were are going into the bend to fast, we are going to crash. Know this saint, when the Lord is throttling you, you can respond like a porche, or a pickup. It is all how you apply what you have learned from Him.

(Philippians 4:6 NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

I'm throttling you, I'm in control, I am on the throne.

He is sitting on the throne, the Father isn't marching around going ohh no, what are we going to do. Jesus did you hear about this, Gabriel why didn't you tell us sooner. No it says He is seated on the throne, sit is to be at rest.

Be anxious for what, in verse 4 of this chapter Paul reminds us that our names are written in the Book of Life. Your name was written before the foundation of the world, there are no clerical errors. *(Philippians 4:4 NKJV) Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*

(Revelation 17:8 KJV) The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

This word anxious means to distract and divide. What is it that is distracting you from what your eyes should be fixed on. Our citizenship is in heaven, as we looked at last study. Lose your heavenly perspective, forget your position in your father's house, and you'll be eating slop with the pigs. Hey, you don't have to be in sin to be eating with the pigs, just let the worries of this world distract and you'll be n the mud.

Worry is the interest we pay on the debit of unbelief. Faith ends where anxiety begins.

We get anxious cause we do not know the end of the story, or as Paul Harvey, and now the rest of the story. You know who could really relate to this verse? The Philippian jailer; as he reads this he can tell everyone in the church, Paul is right don't be anxious, it almost killed me, I didn't know the rest of the story.

You remember the story, Paul and Silas are thrown in prison, they're singing praise songs at midnight - there is an example to follow. But the jailer, he's sleeping, life is good, he is resting. He's got a great job - with job security, a wife and kids, and a house. His position in life brings respect. But then his earth quakes, and anxiety begins. He believes the situation is so hopeless, he is better off dead. But He didn't know the rest of the story. The prisoners are still here, its gonna be ok, and better yet.....Believe on the Lord and you and your whole house shall be saved.

(Acts 16:25 KJV) And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

(Acts 16:26 KJV) And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

(Acts 16:27 KJV) And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

(Acts 16:28 KJV) But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

(Acts 16:29 KJV) Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

(Acts 16:30 KJV) And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

(Acts 16:31 KJV) And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

(Acts 16:32 KJV) And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

(Acts 16:33 KJV) And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

(Acts 16:34 KJV) And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

Never doubt in the darkness, what God has told you in the Light.

Look for the good in everything, and when you can't see it, then sit back and fall back on:

(Romans 8:28 KJV) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

(Romans 8:29 KJV) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

(Romans 8:30 KJV) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

(Romans 8:31 KJV) What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

(Romans 8:32 KJV) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

I finished Bible College, always had planned on going back to work, I figured I stepped out in faith God will take care of me, well after 9 months I still don't have a job. The Lord was throttling me, I screamed for Him to throttle back, but He didn't. Was Bible College a mistake? People questioned if I was in sin, missed my call into missions. I couldn't find a job, I was cleaning out trash bins, and changing light bulbs, all with a Masters Degree. I took a temp job, ended up moving to Louisiana, it was so bad there I wished I could be back in Florida unemployed cause I had no Christian fellowship there, and had to work 60+ hours a week. I was offered a job in Melbourne Florida, which after 6 months the offer still hadn't come. In desperation I applied for a job in Baltimore, they immediately sent me an offer, I didn't want it, I wanted to go to Florida, the struggle was on, hold out for Florida, pass on Baltimore and risk losing both and being stuck in Louisiana. But I went to the Lord in prayer, and he laid it on my heart to move here. So the day I sent my fax to Baltimore for acceptance, four hours later Melbourne called and said the offer is in the mail.

He fulfilled some very specific desires in my life – One was to minister the gospel at a funeral when people have no hope. Secondly, was to lead others on short-term missions so their life can be changed here in America. Thirdly, God gave me a vision to teach from the pulpit. Fourthly,

the Police Chaplain Ministry (God is in the resurrection business by the way). And, prayerfully the fifth will come to pass, it is still TBD, and that is to plant a Calvary Chapel style ministry (but honestly I still struggle, I say well this is different, this is a biggie)

Did you pray before you started that ministry, before you married that person, started that job.....never doubt those things that God has shown you in the light, no matter how dark it gets.

but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; - how to put anxiety/worry in its place.

1. but in everything by prayer

Cross - reference:

(1 Thessalonians 5:16 KJV) Rejoice evermore.

(1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV) Pray without ceasing.

(1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

First notice the everything, big and small. Our Heavenly Father is interested in every little detail of our life, He wants to share in every detail of your life. **A secret of life; anxious for nothing, prayerful for everything.**

2. and supplication,

The word for prayer, proseuche, pros-yoo-khay, is used for prayer in general as an act of devotion and worship. Supplication is the word used for a specific petition.

3. with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Prayer must be mixed with thanksgiving. When we are thanking the Lord, reflecting back on His goodness, His blessings, His past deliverance and provisions, we can't help but be lifted and encouraged. As we have said before many a times, what God has done in the past is a demonstration of what He will do in the future. By the way, you can sing your prayer in the form of a praise song. Sing a song from the heart during your prayer time, and watch your spirits soar.

The longer I walk with the Lord, the more convinced I am that prayer is a dialog, not just a monologue. It is not just for God to hear me, but for me to hear Him. Pray to Him, and then rest and be quiet. See what verse He may give you, what He impresses on your heart. Not just you saying sentence after sentence, and then saying that wraps it up.

I like to read a verse, and then pause and listen to what the Lord says to me. God will so often give you a verse or word to stand on, so when you enter into the darkness, he will remind you of that verse. As I pray for that person, I pray and pause and see what the Lord may speak to me about their situation. The same for my own needs and situations, and what the Lord wants to correct or adjust in my life.

(Philippians 4:7 NKJV) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus:

Guard - 5432. phroureo, froo-reh'-o; from a comp. to be a watcher in advance, i.e. to mount guard as a sentinel (post spies at gates); fig. to hem in, protect:--keep (with a garrison).

Prayer is the sentinel posted outside your mind to keep the evil one and His thoughts from penetrating and taking ground. The sentinel sees, and calls for the garrison to come battle. We will see things in our life that we recognize as a threat to ourselves, it is then we have to battle them in the thought life, so they don't take ground in our minds, and robbing us of our joy and peace.

Paul says he learned to be content, not to worry, apply what we have learned in this book:
Single Mind –to live is Christ, to die is gain, comes with a cost, don't be surprised when hard times come. Salvation is free; discipleship will cost you your life.

Submitted Mind – We want God's will for our life, and whatever route He has to take us to get there, we will go. We all would like for life to be easy, and full of laughs, but that isn't reality. The earth is not a playground, it is a war zone. We as Christians need to have an attitude; we need to be defiant against the enemy. We need to say Satan you can do to me what you will, but I will never turn from the doing the will of my father.

(Daniel 3:13 NKJV) Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.

(Daniel 3:14 NKJV) Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?"

(Daniel 3:15 NKJV) "Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"

(Daniel 3:16 NKJV) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

(Daniel 3:17 NKJV) "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

(Daniel 3:18 NKJV) "But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

These men, had submitted minds, they were not going to bow to the pressures of the world, no matter what the cost. Jesus was going to do the will of the Father, being obedient to the point of death.

During WW2, a British ship was trying to return home filled with Civilian passengers. The Nazis said they would sink any vessel they see in the water, civilian or military. In the British papers the day the ship was to set sail home the headline read, in big bold letters, BUT IF NOT. They were defiant against the German Military. I believe we as Christians need to have an attitude towards the enemy. Satan I know you are coming, and I know my Savior can deliver me, but if hard times befall me, let it be know I will always do the will of the my Father.

Simple Mind – the past will haunt your future, it will make you anxious because you keep dwelling on the past, so much so it becomes your present.

Settled Mind – To sum it all up, god is on the throne. The worst that can happen to you is that you go to heaven.

(Philippians 4:8 NKJV) Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things.

Put this verse on your television, on your children's game, and videos. If anything is contrary to these things, then turn it off. As we have said over and over, the key to joy is having the right thoughts in our minds. The theme of this book over and over is how we think

If you are prone to depression don't fill your mind with garbage of the television, it will depress you and you will dwell on it all night. We all remember back in our school days we would cram as much stuff into our minds before we went to bed, and take the test in the morning cause it would be fresh in our minds. When I want to memorize a scripture, I go over it over and over before I go to sleep, then I wake up and try to recall it first thing when I wake up.

meditate on these things.

Don't meditate on the bad things, and I'm not just talking television, just in life. This is a messed up world we live in.

I once heard the testimony of a woman who said she knew she was a Christian now by looking at her bed. When asked why, she said, "Before, when I got out of my bed, it was all rumpled because I had tossed and turned all night. Now when I get out of the bed, it's as smooth as silk."

(Philippians 4:9 NKJV) The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Here is Paul saying follow my example.

(Philippians 4:10 NKJV) But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

(Philippians 4:11 NKJV) Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

(Philippians 4:12 NKJV) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Being content is the opposite of anxiousness, so these two thoughts go hand and hand.

Be careful about moving up in houses and careers. It isn't always what you think it will be. A moderate life style is easier, much easier, less anxiety.

In Our Daily Bread, Philip Parham tells the story of a rich industrialist who was disturbed to find a fisherman sitting lazily beside his boat.

"Why aren't you out there fishing?" he asked.

"Because I've caught enough fish for today," said the fisherman.

"Why don't you catch more fish than you need?" the rich man asked.

"What would I do with them?"

"You could earn more money," came the impatient reply, "and buy a better boat so you could go deeper and catch more fish. You could purchase nylon nets, catch even more fish, and make more money. Soon you'd have a fleet of boats and be rich like me."

The fisherman asked, "Then what would I do?"

"You could sit down and enjoy life," said the industrialist.

"What do you think I'm doing now?" the fisherman replied.

Are you satisfied with Christ's contentment in your life?

(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

A memory verse for life. The context here is not being anxious, but being content.

(1 John 4:4 KJV) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

The Lord is with me, you will either believe it or you won't; you'll either take advantage of it, or you won't. You can do all things through Christ.

All of our nature depends on hidden resources, the great trees send their roots down into the earth to draw up water and minerals. The most important part of a tree is the part you cannot see, the root system. The most important part of a Christian life is the part that we can't see. Unless we draw on the deep resources of God by faith, we fail against the pressures of life.

Any Christian that says they can not beat their thought life, that is why they are continual in bondage to their flesh, I say garbage. You are choosing to feed your flesh, cause the power of the universe is available to you, all you have to do is seize it. But you don't understand sex is natural, I can't help it if I fall before marriage. I can't help it those drugs are too powerful to kick. I was born with a temper, or I was raised this way. Garbage – quit being a wimp. BUT IF NOT.

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The Sacrificing Mind - A Mind that gives for others well-being – 4:14-23

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The Serving Mind – A Mind that looks to serve others. *(Philippians 2:20 KJV) For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

The Simple Mind – A Mind that forgets the past and looks to the future. *(Philippians 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before*

The Selfish Mind – A Mind that is of no use to God. *(Philippians 3:18 KJV) (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

The Settled Mind – A Mind that is content whatever the circumstances are. *(Philippians 4:6 NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

The Sacrificing Mind – A Mind that gives for others well-being. *(Philippians 4:15 KJV) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

Joy is based on how we think. **As a man thinks, therefore he is.** Your attitude truly does effect your altitude. How you think will effect how you feel. 12 times Paul talks about thinking (know/remember/understand/forget), and 12 times he speaks about our mind. He is calling these people to think rightly - to think correctly. Joyful, successful Christianity is based on this - you can't change your heart – only your mind. Only God can change your heart, and only you can change your mind (free will). So if I change my mind, God can change my heart.

(Proverbs 23:7 KJV) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

The Sacrificing mind is the mind that will sacrifice to benefit others. Giving isn't just in terms of money, but time in service of others (teaching, ministering, praying, etc).

The Sacrificing Mind is the test of the Single Mind, the “Submissive Mind”, and the Settled Mind. When it comes to giving, do you have the Single mind that lives for Christ, are you thinking how can I benefit the kingdom of God. When it comes to giving do you have a Submitted Mind, it is not just how much we are willing to take in terms of suffering, but how much we are willing to give in terms of sacrifice to do the will of the Father. When it comes to giving do you have a Settled Mind, a mind that is content on giving, even if it means you will do without that money or time.

How much is it costing you to be a Christian? Sacrificing to please ourselves is one thing, but to sacrifice for someone else is totally another thing. Sacrificing for others does not come naturally, it is against our nature. Our nature, our sin-nature, is to take care of ourselves. We have to ask God to change our hearts on these matters and the only way He can do that is if we are willing to change our minds about them. God gives us His Word here in order that we might see why we should change our minds about giving and sacrificing. This is the epistle of joy, thus we will see that a key to joy, is giving.

Starting back on verse 10:

(Philippians 4:10 NKJV) But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

Are you willing to Wait:

They cared but couldn't do anything about it, but when they could do something about it, they did. Here is a **ministry key**. There will be a time when you see a need, want to minister to it, but not be able. I want to go on that mission trip you say, but can't get the time, or money; It's ok, just like the church in Philippi, you'll get your chance, don't give-up on that desire just because the opportunity hasn't come to pass yet. I want to serve at the soup kitchen, Sunday School, plant a church, support that missionary - its OK, you will. In the mean time, be faithful to whatever god has you doing now.

On the other side: The church in Philippi had been concerned, but lacked the opportunity. Today in the States many Christians have the opportunity, but lack the concern. If that is you change your mind about these things, and then ask God to change your heart.

Notice, they never forgot Paul. It's not like ohh we want to help but can't, and then a year later they forgot Paul. They had Paul on their heart continually – and the proof that they did is here when they finally could provide, they did – what a witness to this church in Philippi.

(Philippians 4:11 NKJV) Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

(Philippians 4:12 NKJV) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

We spoke on the power available to us through Christ last week.

It is important to note here, most all of us have learned to be abased, because when difficulties come we run to the Lord. The problem usually comes when we are abounding, because then we slowly drift away from calling out to the Lord to supply for us. Prosperity has done more damage to believers than has adversity.

Church of the Laodiceans: known as the Lukewarm church.

(Revelation 3:16 KJV) So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

(Revelation 3:17 KJV) Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

(Revelation 3:18 KJV) I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

When times were abounding for the church in Philippi, what did they do, they gave. What a heart, when they were abased they long to abound so they could give. Why do you think God allows you to abound?

(Philippians 4:14 NKJV) Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.

(Philippians 4:15 NKJV) Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

Are you ready to be forgotten:

If you are desiring on going into the ministry or do missions, you need to ask yourself, are you ready to be forgotten. All these other churches that Paul started, yet only the church in Philippi supplied him, remembered him. A **ministry key** again: whatever ministry you go into, remember it is the Lord you serve. It is easy to get frustrated or discouraged because you will pour yourself into a ministry or person, and then when all is well in their life, they leave and forget you. When hard times befall your life, and they are no where to be found, don't be surprised, it happened to Paul, you are in good company. Turn to the Lord, and you will hear Him say, well done thy good and faithful servant. In a few verses we will see Paul didn't count on anyone but the Lord, so he

was never let done. Count on man, and sooner or later you will be let done, count on the Lord and He shall supply all you needs, whether financial or emotional.

Don't go into the mission field because some church or someone promised to support you. A few years back I was going to go support a Senior Pastor who was going to plant a church in the Ukraine. I was going to support him for the first two years of his plant, then I was coming back to the states. We did a pathfinder to the Ukraine and we met a missionary, a Pastor planting a church. The day I was leaving he called me, said ray if you are planning on coming back, you need to know this (and another Pastor told me this same thing later), you will be the first one forgotten. When tithes are down at the home church, your support will be the first to go, six months from now everybody will be enjoying life, and forget to call to see how you are doing. The mission field is a lonely place, you need to be prepared for that. Ask yourself – am I ready to be forgotten? You'll be in good company.

(Philippians 4:16 NKJV) For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.

(Philippians 4:17 NKJV) Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

Paul was being attacked, they charged him with being a profiteer back in Corinth, but he says: *(2 Corinthians 12:14 KJV) Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. (2 Corinthians 12:15 KJV) And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.*

Paul only cared that people were growing in the Lord, being fruitful. Producing fruit is proof that we are attached to the branch – Christ.

(John 15:4 KJV) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

(John 15:5 KJV) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

What is fruit? The Scriptures specify 6 types of fruit.

1. Romans 6:22 says that holiness is a fruit:

(Romans 6:22 NKJV) But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

Your life begins to take on a new wholeness, not eroded by sin, not wiped out by the world. Holiness begins to grow in you, and a new wholesomeness begins to be worked out through you. Holiness means “purification”, and “sanctification”, we are set apart for God. An easy self-examination is this, Lord how am I doing in terms of keeping your Word?

(1 Th 4:7 NKJV) For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

2. Roman 1:13 says that soul-winning is a fruit:

Paul said “*I wish to come to Rome that I might have fruit among you*”- or, see souls saved. Paul then goes into that powerful verse on preaching the gospel

(Romans 1:15-16 KJV) So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

(Proverbs 11:30 KJV) The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

3. Galatians 5 describes the fruit of the Spirit

(Gal 5:22-23 NKJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

4. **Romans 15 calls financial giving a fruit**

The church in Jerusalem, because of their persecution, was so poor, that the Apostle Paul was taking up a collection to take to them so that they might have money just to buy food.

(Romans 15:26-28 NKJV) For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.

I know sometimes it is hard to write that check, but we have to remember financial giving is a fruit.

5. **Colossians 1:10 labels good works a fruit:**

(Colossians 1:10 NKJV) that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Serving others is a fruit. Helping someone I might also point out, a piece of fruit has no say in who picks it or who eats it. And so too it is with us, we are to give our fruit away freely with no conditions attached. Helping someone and figuring they owe us one is not fruit, probably the greatest blessings come when we help someone who has no ability to ever pay us back, this includes the financial fruit too.

6. **Hebrews 13:15 names praises as a fruit.**

Giving thanks to the Lord is fruit in His eyes

(Hebrews 13:15 KJV) By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Praises to God not only come in the form of worship, but also by every word that proceeds from our lips. Words of love and encouragement to others bring praises unto God. Words of destruction from God's children does not bring praise unto God. Let every word that proceeds from our mouths, be only words of edification.

So are we fruitful, we have 6 benchmarks to examine ourselves by. I think it is a good idea to lay these 6 out in our devotion time each day and say "God how's my fruit in these area, what type of fruit have I been producing? If little or none, then change me Lord; if lots, then Praise you Lord, lets do more. A fruit producing Christian, is a joyful Christian

(Psalms 16:11 KJV) Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

When you are attached to the vine producing fruit, your are in the presence of the King, you are so close you are touching.....and what happens? Fullness of joy, pleasures for evermore.

(Matthew 25:31 KJV) When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

(Matthew 25:32 KJV) And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

(Matthew 25:33 KJV) And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

(Matthew 25:34 KJV) Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

(Matthew 25:35 KJV) For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

(Matthew 25:36 KJV) Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

(Matthew 25:37 KJV) Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

(Matthew 25:38 KJV) When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

(Matthew 25:39 KJV) Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

(Matthew 25:40 KJV) And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

(Philippians 4:17 NKJV) Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

(Philippians 4:18 NKJV) Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

The gifts to Paul, the man of God, were a gift of worship and praise to God Himself. The church gave materially to Paul, and received spiritually from the Lord. The Lord keeps the books and will never fail to pay one spiritual dividend.

abounds to your account.

If you don't think God is keeping a record, read Ezra chapter 2. Look at the listing of everyone who returned to the land of Israel after being carried away by the Babylonian Empire – God know your coming and going. And then in verse 69 the amount all of them gave to the treasury. God notices, maybe the Pastor doesn't, but God does.

(Ezra 2:1 NKJV) Now these are the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his own city.

(Ezra 2:2 NKJV) Those who came with Zerubbabel were Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

(Ezra 2:3 NKJV) the people of Parosh, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two;

(Ezra 2:4 NKJV) the people of Shephatiah, three hundred and seventy-two;

(Ezra 2:5 NKJV) the people of Arah, seven hundred and seventy-five;

(Ezra 2:6 NKJV) the people of Pahath-Moab, of the people of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve;

(Ezra 2:7 NKJV) the people of Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

(Ezra 2:8 NKJV) the people of Zattu, nine hundred and forty-five;

(Ezra 2:9 NKJV) the people of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty;

(Ezra 2:10 NKJV) the people of Bani, six hundred and forty-two;

(Ezra 2:11 NKJV) the people of Bebai, six hundred and twenty-three;

(Ezra 2:12 NKJV) the people of Azgad, one thousand two hundred and twenty-two;

(Ezra 2:13 NKJV) the people of Adonikam, six hundred and sixty-six;

(Ezra 2:14 NKJV) the people of Bigvai, two thousand and fifty-six;

(Ezra 2:15 NKJV) the people of Adin, four hundred and fifty-four;

(Ezra 2:16 NKJV) the people of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety-eight;

(Ezra 2:17 NKJV) the people of Bezai, three hundred and twenty-three;

(Ezra 2:18 NKJV) the people of Jorah, one hundred and twelve;

(Ezra 2:19 NKJV) the people of Hashum, two hundred and twenty-three;

(Ezra 2:20 NKJV) the people of Gibbar, ninety-five;

(Ezra 2:21 NKJV) the people of Bethlehem, one hundred and twenty-three;

(Ezra 2:22 NKJV) the men of Netophah, fifty-six;

(Ezra 2:23 NKJV) the men of Anathoth, one hundred and twenty-eight;

(Ezra 2:24 NKJV) the people of Azmaveth, forty-two;

(Ezra 2:25 NKJV) the people of Kirjath Arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty-three;

(Ezra 2:26 NKJV) the people of Ramah and Geba, six hundred and twenty-one;

(Ezra 2:27 NKJV) the men of Michmas, one hundred and twenty-two;

(Ezra 2:28 NKJV) the men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred and twenty-three;

(Ezra 2:29 NKJV) the people of Nebo, fifty-two;

(Ezra 2:30 NKJV) the people of Magbish, one hundred and fifty-six;

(Ezra 2:31 NKJV) the people of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

(Ezra 2:32 NKJV) the people of Harim, three hundred and twenty;

(Ezra 2:33 NKJV) the people of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-five;

(Ezra 2:34 NKJV) the people of Jericho, three hundred and forty-five;

(Ezra 2:35 NKJV) the people of Senaah, three thousand six hundred and thirty.

(Ezra 2:36 NKJV) The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred and seventy-three;

(Ezra 2:37 NKJV) the sons of Immer, one thousand and fifty-two;

(Ezra 2:38 NKJV) the sons of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred and forty-seven;

(Ezra 2:39 NKJV) the sons of Harim, one thousand and seventeen.
(Ezra 2:40 NKJV) The Levites: the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, seventy-four.
(Ezra 2:41 NKJV) The singers: the sons of Asaph, one hundred and twenty-eight.
(Ezra 2:42 NKJV) The sons of the gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, and the sons of Shobai, one hundred and thirty-nine in all.
(Ezra 2:43 NKJV) The Nethinim: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,
(Ezra 2:44 NKJV) the sons of Keros, the sons of Siaha, the sons of Padon,
(Ezra 2:45 NKJV) the sons of Lebanah, the sons of Hagabah, the sons of Akkub,
(Ezra 2:46 NKJV) the sons of Hagab, the sons of Shalmal, the sons of Hanan,
(Ezra 2:47 NKJV) the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, the sons of Reaiah,
(Ezra 2:48 NKJV) the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, the sons of Gazzam,
(Ezra 2:49 NKJV) the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, the sons of Besai,
(Ezra 2:50 NKJV) the sons of Asnah, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephusim,
(Ezra 2:51 NKJV) the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,
(Ezra 2:52 NKJV) the sons of Bazluth, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha,
(Ezra 2:53 NKJV) the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Tamah,
(Ezra 2:54 NKJV) the sons of Nezhiah, and the sons of Hatipha.
(Ezra 2:55 NKJV) The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Peruda,
(Ezra 2:56 NKJV) the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel,
(Ezra 2:57 NKJV) the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth of Zebaim, and the sons of Ami.
(Ezra 2:58 NKJV) All the Nethinim and the children of Solomon's servants were three hundred and ninety-two.
(Ezra 2:59 NKJV) And these were the ones who came up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer; but they could not identify their father's house or their genealogy, whether they were of Israel:
(Ezra 2:60 NKJV) the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, and the sons of Nekoda, six hundred and fifty-two;
(Ezra 2:61 NKJV) and of the sons of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Koz, and the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name.
(Ezra 2:62 NKJV) These sought their listing among those who were registered by genealogy, but they were not found; therefore they were excluded from the priesthood as defiled.
(Ezra 2:63 NKJV) And the governor said to them that they should not eat of the most holy things till a priest could consult with the Urim and Thummim.
(Ezra 2:64 NKJV) The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty,
(Ezra 2:65 NKJV) besides their male and female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and they had two hundred men and women singers.
(Ezra 2:66 NKJV) Their horses were seven hundred and thirty-six, their mules two hundred and forty-five,
(Ezra 2:67 NKJV) their camels four hundred and thirty-five, and their donkeys six thousand seven hundred and twenty.
(Ezra 2:68 NKJV) Some of the heads of the fathers' houses, when they came to the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God, to erect it in its place:
(Ezra 2:69 NKJV) According to their ability, they gave to the treasury for the work sixty-one thousand gold drachmas, five thousand minas of silver, and one hundred priestly garments.
(Ezra 2:70 NKJV) So the priests and the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

(Philippians 4:19 NKJV) And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

This verse is in all the precious promise boxes, but it is important to note who he was talking. He was talking to those who were giving. If you'll get around to giving. Then God will get around to supplying your needs. When the day comes and it is my turn for layoffs, I don't want to have to question whether God is judging me. I want to be giving all along, and then when I fall on hard times financially, I want to be able to say then this is the will for God in my life. God is using this to conform me, or move me along, out of my comfort zone.

Giving has a twofold purpose in the economy of God, first it pays off spiritual dividends; secondly it guarantees us that God will supply all our needs for today (not wants I might add). Luke 5, Peter and the boyz had a fruitless day of fishing, Jesus comes along and says launch the boat, I'm gona preach the Word. After Jesus said lets go fishing, I'm hungry, you hungry? Peter said Lord we fished all night and caught nothing but water. Jesus said let your nets down, and when they drew them back up they were so full the nets were ready to break, two boat loads to get them all in. Gang, you give to the Lord, sacrifice for Him, when your nets are empty, He will fill them. Jesus will never be a debtor to man, He challenges us to out give Him.

(Luke 5:1 KJV) And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

(Luke 5:2 KJV) And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

(Luke 5:3 KJV) And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

(Luke 5:4 KJV) Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

(Luke 5:5 KJV) And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

(Luke 5:6 KJV) And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

(Luke 5:7 KJV) And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

(Luke 5:8 KJV) When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

(Luke 5:9 KJV) For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

(Luke 5:10 KJV) And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

Are you ready to step out in faith:

For you desiring ministers or missionaries, again it the Lord who supplies your needs. If God guides He will provide. We don't need barometers in the foyer to remind everyone to give to the new building fund. If God has called you to build a new building he will guide, and supply. A friend just told me that his church wants to build a new sanctuary. They figured in order to do so, every family in the church must not only tithe, but also give an additional 300 dollars a month. I was in a church visiting one Christmas, and the priest said next year we will have Christmas service in our new sanctuary, so what I am saying is that when the offering comes around, if you don't have a fifty, two twenties and a ten will do. Where God guides He will provide.

Before I went on a mission trip I had to get all these shots. The nurse asked me, If there was anything in the world you could do, what would it be - she was setting me up for the Amway sells pitch. There bottom line thought is that finances are what keep us from doing what we want to. I said I'm doing it, I'm living for Jesus daily, telling others about Jesus, and doing missions, that is why I am here to get my shots.

Where God guides He will provide.

(Philippians 4:20 NKJV) Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

(Philippians 4:21 NKJV) Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.

(Philippians 4:22 NKJV) All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.

Paul is bragging about the church in Philippi to the palace guard. No doubt they watched the offering come in and said wow, they do care about you. Christians taking care of each other, and those who are not their own, speaks volumes to those who are watching.

(Philippians 4:23 NKJV) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

The Single Mind
The Submitted Mind
The Simple Mind
The Settled Mind

And the Sacrificing Mind

Obstinate Preacher

TO GO FREE, all John Bunyan had to do was make one promise. He must agree not to preach publicly anymore. Bunyan's reply: "If I was out of prison today, I would preach the gospel again tomorrow by the help of God."

Older folk must have shaken their heads in wonder. "John Bunyan of all people! Why, we remember when he was a filthy mouthed ringleader in every sort of mischief."

Bunyan was born in 1628 in the heart of England, a mile south of Bedford a few years before the English Civil War. His family was so poor that when his father died, John was left only one shilling and his tinker's anvil. The boy had little formal education. However, he learned to read and feasted on medieval romances in which valiant knights underwent great trials and conquered villains and monsters. In youth he boasted a mouth so profane it shocked even wicked men. Additionally, he loved to dance, bell-ring and lead Sunday sports, all considered improper by Puritans. Although he attended church, he had little religious feeling.

Spared for Something

John turned sixteen in 1644 at the height of the Civil War. He joined the army. Since Bedford was a Parliamentarian stronghold, it is probable he served Cromwell. While on duty he was "drawn out" to take part in a siege. Another soldier asked to take his place. "[A]s he stood sentinel he was shot in the head with a musket bullet and died." John came to see this as proof God had spared his life for a great work.

Where Do You Want to Go?

Returning home, John married. He was twenty. His wife was as poor as he; between them they did not have a dish or spoon. Her godly father had furnished her with two Christian books--books which John read with an increasingly troubled conscience. One Sunday as he played, he heard a voice. "Will you leave your sins and go to Heaven, or have your sins and go to Hell?" His distress was acute. He felt that he had sinned so gravely he was beyond forgiveness. Nonetheless, he struggled to find peace with God by obeying scriptural commands. Outwardly, he reformed and put off swearing and improper sports. Inwardly, he still longed to participate. He read the Bible. Although without peace, he thought God must be pleased with him.

One day he overheard four women speaking of their inner religious experience, and he realized he lacked something. Leaving the Church of England, he joined their fellowship. Still he lacked peace. Only after reading Luther's commentary on Galatians did he realize he could be justified by faith alone. His inner struggles were not over, but he found relief. Bunyan felt compelled to tell others of faith in Christ. He became a field preacher. So effective were his words, people would arrive at dawn to hear him preach at noon.

When Preaching Was a Crime

Open-air preaching was illegal. Officials feared that demagogues would incite revolution. For this reason, John was careful never to side with any political faction in his teachings. All the same he was in danger. Warned that he was to be arrested if he held church at a friend's house, he went anyway, determined to set an example of boldness. If he fled, weaker brethren would see it and run also. He was seized.

Without a hearing or witnesses, the judge sentenced John to three months in prison. Bedford's prison conditions were not the worst in England. Yet they were a genuine hardship. There was little light and no bathing facilities. The place stank of unwashed bodies. "Prison fever," or Typhus, killed many prisoners. The cells were overcrowded. John's ration was one quarter loaf of bread a day. Worst of all, he was separated from his family. His first wife had died and he had remarried. He was not home to care for his children, including his blind daughter, Mary, whom he dearly loved. To support them, Bunyan made thousands of long, tagged shoelaces which he sold. Church members helped the Bunyans, too.

At the end of three months, John was offered freedom on condition he no longer preach. Again he refused. The months turned to years. All in all he spent twelve years in prison. Fortunately, a sympathetic jailer let John secretly slip off to meetings. He knew John would always return. Once

he even let John go to London, but when his job was threatened, he forbade him to so much as peek out the jail door anymore.

Life Behind Bars

For political reasons, Charles II released a number of prisoners. Bunyan was not among them. He was told he would have to apply for a pardon. He refused. To do so would be to admit he had done wrong. Elizabeth, his wife, pleaded for his release, but sympathetic court officers said John could go free only if he complied with the authorities. So John remained in prison. He was cheerful, believing he suffered for Christ. He had true freedom, he said. In prison he could read the Bible, preach and sing hymns with no one to stop him. He was also allowed to write. In jail he completed many of his sixty books, including the best known: *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners* and *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

Bunyan's first book, *Some Gospel Truths Opened According to the Scriptures*, had attacked Quaker beliefs. Ironically it was Quakers who freed him. Told by the king to prepare a list of names for pardon, they included Bunyan's with their own members; names.

Released, Bunyan immediately returned to preaching. By now the authorities realized he was concerned only with the Kingdom of God. They jailed him again for six months in 1675, but otherwise he remained free until he died at sixty years of age, having written *The Pilgrim's Progress*, the world's most widely circulated book next to the Bible.

One of the unforgettable images from *The Pilgrim's Progress* is the heavy load that Pilgrim always carried around on his back. This crushing load was his sin which rolled away when he came to the cross. Picture from *Dangerous Journey*.

Fascinating Facts. . .

- Bunyan's illegal imprisonment may have spared him from a worse fate. If he had been released and resentenced, he could have been banished from England under threat of hanging if he returned.
- Bunyan's fame was such that people came from all the midland counties to hear him speak. When told not to preach, Bunyan quoted I Peter 4:10, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." His gift, he contended, was preaching.
- Many others beside Bunyan were held prisoner during this time, including Quaker founder George Foxe. Many of Bunyan's own church members were incarcerated with him during his twelve year stay.
- When John was first sentenced to prison, his wife Elizabeth miscarried a child, adding to both their woes.
- *Pilgrim's Progress* as we know it isn't as Bunyan first wrote it. He issued several revised editions, adding new characters.

Bunyan read and reread Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* while in prison.

My Own Self to Gratify

At the beginning of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Bunyan gives an "author's apology," explaining how he came to write his now immortal work. Amazingly, he says he didn't write it with expectation of publication, but for his own enjoyment.

When at the first I took my pen in hand Thus for to write, I did not understand That I at all should make a little book In such a mode; nay, I had undertook To make another; which, when almost done, Before I was aware, I this begun.

And thus it was: I, writing of the way And race of saints, in this our gospel day, Fell suddenly into allegory About their journey, and the way to glory, In more than twenty things which I set down. This done, I twenty more had in my crown; And they again began to multiply, Like sparks that from the coals of fire do fly. Nay, then, thought I, if that you breed so fast, I'll put you by yourselves, lest you at last Should prove ad infinitum, and eat out The book that I already am about.

Well, so I did; but yet I did not think To show to all the world my pen and ink In such a mode; I only thought to make I knew not what; nor did I undertake Thereby to please my neighbor: no, not I; I did it my own self to gratify.

Neither did I but vacant seasons spend in this my scribble; nor did I intend But to divert myself in doing this from worsen thoughts which make me do amiss. From *The Pilgrim's Progress*, p.1

On one of his preaching journeys to London in August 1688 Bunyan went out of his way to Reading to help settle a quarrel between a father and son. After riding through heavy rain he arrived at the home of a London friend. He preached the following Sunday but in a few days developed a violent fever and died. He was buried in Bunhill Fields, London.

How much is it costing you to be a Christian?

The closing of His last sermon:

Lastly, If you be the children of God, learn that lesson--Gird up the loins of your mind, as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to your former conversation; but be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Consider that the holy God is your Father, and let this oblige you to live like the children of God, that you may look your Father in the face, with comfort, another day.

End Study: The Sacrificing Mind - A Mind that gives for others well-being – 4:14-23