

JOY

from the inside out



God did not apologize for my heartache; even better, He shared it... It is my privilege not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for him..." Katie

Rejoice

Philippians 2

Do NOT pass Go until...



Paul begins this portion of his letter by answering the problems that the Philippians are having getting along. In the next verses, he will tell them to do nothing until they are a team with a common mind:

The Mind of Christ.

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,

Then ² make my joy complete:

By being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.



Sven Skaltje, who is a reindeer herder in Sweden, was saddened to untangle the carcasses of two reindeer whose antlers had become entangled during a dominance struggle. He estimates it took 3 days for them to die of starvation while hooked face-to-face.

What Paul writes next... may be the most important thing Paul ever records

- He is writing this to a community where they are not getting along – where selfishness has taken over.
- He is going to describe Jesus... so they can see what it means to have the mind of Jesus.
- Paul knows that if the community will become like Christ, it will be whole again.
- What he writes was originally most likely a song or statement of faith not authored by Paul, but he is saying it back to people who already know it.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in **the form of God**, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

- Form = the sum of attributes that makes something precisely what it is.
- Before Jesus was born, he was already in the form of God. Jesus already had all the attributes of God.
- He wasn't just part of God – he had the total of everything that makes up God.

Form of God (Some attributes of God)

- Holy (Whole)
- Un-beginning (“I am”)
- Awful (Awe –full)
- Doesn’t need us - wasn’t completed by us (chose to express himself in us like an artist)
- Almighty (All Powerful)
- Infinitely present
- Infinite knowledge (No one taught him)
- Makes no mistakes
- Unchanging Character (I am) - though God can change his mind
- Absolutely Sovereign (even over evil)
- Good
- Love (loves because of who he is not because of who I am)
- Grace and mercy
- Just

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- I like the KJV the best here: “thought it not robbery to be equal with God”
- Claiming to be God was not taking anything from God. He was God.

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but **emptied himself, taking the form of a slave**, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

- Jesus does not lay aside his deity (or Godly attributes while taking on our humanity. However, the unlimited God willingly enters into the experience of the limited).
- Jesus empties himself by adding to himself the attributes (or form) of a slave. (Isaiah 40).
- Jesus uses his divine powers and displays his glories upon occasion (e.g., miracles, the Transfiguration), but always under the direction of the Father and the Spirit (Luke 4:14; John 5:19; 8:28; 14:10).

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- Jesus wasn't just God planted in Mary's womb.
- He shared her DNA – humanity's DNA.
- He was 100% one of us.

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- Jesus was most common name of the day.
- Jesus was the name of his humiliation.
- When the demon's spoke to him – they called him Jesus
- The creator entered into the experience of the creature.

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- Tempted in every way that we are tempted
- He stood before the wrath of God and experienced it completely. Something none of us will ever do.
- For the first time separated from the trinity where he had know ultimate love.

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- The real battle for Jesus was fought in the Garden of Gethsemane where he decided he was going to be obedient.
- The stress of being obedient almost killed Jesus in the Garden (blood from his pores).
- Looking for Jesus the soldiers ask him if he is Jesus... he says... "I AM!" He gave himself up. Freely.

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- Beautiful crosses hanging around our neck make us miss the point sometimes – might think about wearing a gas chamber or noose instead.
- Death on cross not permitted for Roman citizens – only the enemies of Rome.
- Only for the accursed of God.

How does knowing who Christ was change how we treat each other?

Paul's focus is on humility – becoming a servant to God and to each other. Go back and read Phil 2:1-10 to see this clearly...

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,

Then ² make my joy complete:

By being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Paul goes on to tell us what the
Father does because of Jesus'
humility...

9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue should **confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus' new name:

Lord!

I Cor 12:3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.



Armed with a new sense of who Jesus was and who I was as his servant, I continued to try and give away myself in every circumstance... and most days that meant no more than being faithful to the people and responsibilities God had put in my life.

² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for **it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.** ¹⁴ Do all things without murmuring and arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world.

¹⁶ **It is by your holding fast to the word of life** that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you-- ¹⁸ and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.



Historical Info on Timothy...

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But Timothy's worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him as soon as I see how things go with me; ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that I will also come soon. ²⁵

Historical Info on Epaphroditus

²⁵ Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus-- my brother and co-worker and fellow soldier, your messenger and minister to my need; ²⁶ for he has been longing for all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ Welcome him then in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people, ³⁰ because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me.

J  **Y**

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