

# THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

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## September 30 – Philippians 1:27-2:18

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,<sup>28</sup> 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.<sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,<sup>30</sup> having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

**2** Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,<sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.<sup>3</sup> *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,<sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,<sup>10</sup> 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,<sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> 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;<sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.<sup>14</sup> Do all things without complaining and disputing,<sup>15</sup> 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,<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> 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.<sup>18</sup> For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

## OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

### Encourages the Church to stay unified with a single goal of sharing the gospel

In this portion of Scripture Paul appeals to the entire church to become unified on preaching the gospel. When churches experience mission drift they take their eyes off the harvest field and begin to look inwardly at all the different troubles and faults of believers. This is a huge mistake and it's why Paul is doing his best to say come on guys let's focus on the mission at hand and

that is preaching the gospel to the entire world. Let's unify around Christ and his mission together! This is why Paul appeals to their Christian virtues by saying if there is any comfort, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any consolation being together in Christ then make my joy complete by focusing on reaching your community with the good news of Jesus. This is any sincere Pastors desire as well. He says to be sure to not allow your motive to be selfish ambition but cloth yourself with humility and serve one another.

### **The mind of Christ in us**

This naturally leads Paul to point believers to the attitude that Jesus had which was humble service. He says let the same mind of Christ be in you, even though he was God in the flesh he did not exalt himself but humbled himself to serve God and became obedient to the point of dying on the cross for our sins. This same mind of Christ is what we should all seek to embrace. Remember how Jesus modeled serving in John 13 when he ate the Passover with his apostles? He actually put on a servant's garment and washed all of their feet to give them an example of the kind of humility and service that God is looking for in his people. After Jesus washed the apostle's feet he said in John 13:16 "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him."<sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

### **The name of Jesus has authority in three realms**

Paul says that because Christ was obedient to God and suffered death that he was raised from the dead and given a name that has authority in heaven and on earth and under the earth and that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. If you want to grow in true spiritual authority it's going to come because you humbly obey God and do his will. This is how God empowers us spiritually. It's not through selfish ambition and exalting yourself. Remember that that is how the devil ended up being cast out of heaven and condemned because he wanted to exalt himself! For the follower of Christ, it's following the example of Christ that counts and doing the will of God from your heart in a humble attitude of obedience to the father.

### **What it means to work out your salvation**

We know that or we are not saved by the works that we do because the Bible says clearly that by grace we are saved through faith and that not of ourselves it's the gift of God and that it's not because of the works we do so no one can boast. When Paul says that we are to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling it means that we have to co-operate with God because he is the one that is working inside of us to become the followers of Christ he has called us to be. All Christians have the Holy Spirit to guide them and lead us into becoming mature and that's what he's talking about here. To work out our salvation means that our inner man, the spiritual man has been born again into a new creation in Christ needs to learn to allow that spiritual life in Christ to be the dominate life. The reality is that we all experience mountain tops of victory and valleys of defeat but God faithfully keeps working with us every step of our journey. Paul says in verse 14 that we are to do all things without grumbling and complaining because that doesn't show the heart of God to anyone. Rather we are to shine as lights in a dark world and hold forth the word of life, the message of salvation in Jesus Christ and influence others around us to

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believe in Christ and be saved. Paul says it's his great joy to see believers built up and become all that God has called them to be in Christ Jesus.

## WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

- 1) Churches need to unify around the gospel and getting that message out to their community.
- 2) The mind of Christ is being a humble servant that obeys God.
- 3) Jesus has been given a name that is above all names and has authority in heaven, on earth and under the earth.
- 4) Working out our salvation is working with the Holy Spirit that lives with in us as God leads us to fulfill his purposes in our lives.
- 5) God desires all of his children to become lights reflecting Christ into a dark world that attracts the lost to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER TO APPLY THE WORD OF GOD TO OUR LIVES



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