



# World Christian Fellowship

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## Philippians 21 Role Model of Leaders/Servants -01

**Philippians 2:17-18**, *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.*

Paul took time to explain the humility brings unity in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter.

**Philippians 2:1-5**, *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.*

Then Paul showed how Jesus Christ is been our supreme example for humility.

After showing how Jesus served us humbly now, he goes on to give us personal illustrations of three men, how to live our Christian life as the pattern.

1. Paul,
2. Timothy and
3. Epaphroditus.

If we could just sum up everything, he said from verses 1 to 16 it would go a little bit like this.

We are called to humbly work out our salvation knowing that it is the power of God working in us to do so in every circumstance and in every difficulty without grumbling and without disputing.

That is the pattern of our spiritual service. Work out your salvation with humility and without complaint.

Three illustrations on real people the principle so that you can see how that works in them.

**Principle:**

- Humility,
- working out the salvation in the power of God,
- No Murmuring,

**Illustration.**

Three model servants who live their Christian life,

- rendered their service to God in humility,
- working on to the outside what God had put on the inside.
- without grumbling, without complaining,

Paul and Timothy and Epaphroditus were all together at the writing of this in Rome.

- Paul was the prisoner.
- Timothy was his spiritual son.
- Epaphroditus had been sent from the Philippian church to minister to Paul's needs.

So, they were all bound together here in prison physically, spiritually together, together in ministry, together in heart. They were knit together in a common cause, all working for a common goal.

- All three of them illustrate selfless, humble, sacrificial service.
- All three of them illustrate working out their salvation in the power of God.
- All three of them illustrate a non-grumbling, non-disputing attitude.

All three illustrate the same thing. But at the same time there is an element in the testimony of each which is unique to that man.

We can identify Paul uniquely as the humble joyful person, or the sacrifices joyfully.

We can identify Timothy as the single-minded sympathizer.

We can identify Epaphroditus as the loving great risk taker for the Kingdom.

We are going to look at Paul.

He offered humble, selfless service to Christ but uniquely we see him here as the sacrificial rejoicer.

**V17**, *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.*

Paul present himself as an illustration of sacrificial joy.

Wouldn't it have been better for Paul to just talk about Timothy and Epaphroditus without bringing himself in here?

Isn't that an act of pride?

Not at all.

Paul writes he is under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit knew Paul's heart perfectly. He knew exactly what Paul was like on the inside and the Holy Spirit did not hesitate to encourage Paul and directed him to use himself as an illustration.

We are reluctant to use ourselves as the spiritual model is because we know so much about ourselves as to know the model is not what it ought to be.

When a person is truly spiritual, godly, and truly walks in intimacy with God, there is the utter lack of self-consciousness that is present in the hypocrite.

It is the expression of a genuinely humble man, of a genuinely spiritual man, of a genuinely godly man and thus it is not a problem for him.

**1 Corinthians 11:1**, *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

If you find it difficult for you to say that about yourself, and to establish yourself as the standard for others to follow, it is because there is a self-consciousness about you. That self-consciousness is born out of a sense of inadequacy because you are not before God what you ought to be.

Paul on the other hand knows none of that self-consciousness and freely does he express the fact that he is the standard and

the model and freely does the Spirit of God encourage him to do that knowing full well what is in his heart.

Paul says that,

- I am gladly offering my life,
- I am gladly sacrificing my life and
- I find great joy in doing so.

### **The imagery of sacrifice**

Which was so very familiar to ancient people.

Paul is talking about an animal being brought into the altar, sacrificed take that blood of that animal used as atonement.

### **What is a drink offering?**

The ancient world of sacrifice both the Jewish and the pagan world had these kinds of drink offerings.

After the animal on the altar had been killed and was being burned up. A final topping off that sacrifice where the offeror came and took wine and pouring wine either on top of the burning sacrifice. As soon as it was poured it would vaporize immediately into steam and go into the air. This symbolize the rising of that sacrifice into the nostrils of the deity for whom it was being offered.

So, Paul says I am now offering my life as this final topping off libation or drink offering upon another sacrifice. This is the completion of this full sacrifice.

**2 Kings 16:13**, *So he burned his burnt offering and his grain offering; and he poured his drink offering and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings on the altar.*

**Jeremiah 7:18**, and **Hosea 9:4** talks about the drink offering.

Paul sees his sacrifice as is the drink offering, the final touch to another sacrifice.

Paul was not talking about his death here since he knew that he will be released from the prison soon.

**Philippians 1:24**, *Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.*

**Philippians 2:24**, *But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.*

This shows that he is going to live, and he sees the present sacrifice that he is making for the cause of Christ, a drink offering being poured out.

**V17-18**, *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.*

The drink offering is Paul's sacrifice, the greater sacrifice he indicates is that of the Philippian church!

Very powerful point.

Paul poured out as a drink offering on top of or upon the real sacrifice which is Philippian's sacrifice.

You, Philippians, are making the great sacrifice, I am just the topping off of it.

Why does he say this?

Why does he say to the Philippians yours is the great offering, mine is just a little drink offering poured on the top?

We know that the Philippians were suffering greatly for their faith.

**Philippians 1:28-30**, *and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but [\[1\]](#)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.*

So, they have opponents and they are suffering for the sake of Christ. They were going through what Paul was going through. They were in a hostile environment. They were in an ungodly environment. They were in a pagan culture.

This bringing on them that persecution which is indicated there in those verses.

So, Paul says yours is the great sacrifice. You are the one suffering as you proclaim Christ in Philippi. Mine is just the pouring out a libation on top of your great sacrifice.

Does this show us something about Paul's character?  
The theme was of the first six verses of Philippians 2 is Humility!

**Philippians 2:3-4**, 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.

It simply is the reflection of the humility of his heart. Paul is a humble man.

Paul thought more of the great sacrifice of the Philippians than he did of his own.

*"upon the sacrifice and service of your faith."*

The sacrifice they were making was really the giving of their lives the cause of Christ.

- ❖ Preaching,
- ❖ teaching,
- ❖ proclaiming, and
- ❖ living for Christ.

**Philippians 4:18**, *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.*

They didn't have that much to spare.

But let me go a step further. You can't just

Looking at this as comparison them a greater and a lesser sacrifice. There is a unity here as well, and it's one sacrifice, for it was customary that the sacrifice was laid on the altar and then the one who brought the sacrifice poured out the drink offering as the final element of that one sacrifice.

So, what Paul is really saying is you and I together are offering to God the sacrifice of our life. There is a real loving, loyal sort of brotherly act in this sacrifice.

Paul being a part of their sacrificial service to Christ, together they are offering themselves.

*"I rejoice since I am being poured out."*

## **Why are you rejoicing?**

the highest expression of Paul's life was to give himself a sacrifice therefore built into it was the greatest experience of joy.

## **How can a missionary live under those conditions?**

## **How can a missionary go to unknown place, stay there, and endure for years?**

Because they view life as a sacrifice well pleasing to God.

The greater the sacrifice, the greater the joy!

It is not joy in spite of, it is joy because of.

- ❖ Philippians are going through suffering and Paul is also going through persecution.
- ❖ Philippians are going through opposition; Paul is also going through opposition.
- ❖ I am rejoicing too, and you will rejoice as well.
- ❖ We all will rejoice together!

This whole epistle is full of joy.

This is a time for joy.

Paul says to them, "You rejoice, don't be sorry for me, you rejoice, I am sharing my joy with you, you share your joy with me."

Paul, by the way, refers to this same kind of joy on a number of occasions.

**2 Corinthians 7:4**, *Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.*

**Colossians 1:24**, *I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,*

**1 Thessalonians 3:7-9**, *therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.* <sup>8</sup>*For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.*

<sup>9</sup>*For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God,*

Many Christians aren't consumed with the joy that is theirs because of the total sacrifice they have made for Christ.

We get joy out of what we do for ourselves, we get some joy out of what we do for others as a satisfaction in feeding the hungry, helping the poor, whatever it might be.

But how many of us are exhilarated with joy in the sacrifices we make for the cause of Christ?

Let me ask the following questions,

**What are you sacrificing in service to Christ?**

**What amount of time and money, what are you sacrificing for the cause of Christ?**

**What have you said no to in order to say yes to God's will?**

**What have you said no to in order to say yes to God's Kingdom?**

**What have you said no to in order to say yes to God's church?**

## **Application:**

**I am a long way from the Apostle Paul, how am I going to know this kind of joy?**

**How am I going to experience this level of living?**

**Where did Paul learn it?**

He learned it from Christ!

**Hebrews 12:2**, *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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

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

I want to know Him more, more deeply, more fully.

I want to know the power of His resurrection, that is power to give my life as a sacrifice, power to lay everything on the line.

I want to know the fellowship of His sufferings and I want to know the joy of suffering in ultimate sacrifice.

Paul found his model in Christ, and I believe he found his strength to live out that model in his relationship to Christ.

### **Doctrine of sanctification**

Your effectiveness as a Christian is directly related to the proximity in which you live in intimate fellowship with Christ.

Look at their conduct and their behaviour then you can tell, how intimate and how close their relationship is to the living Christ? Because that's what dictates the kind and quality of life they live.

You were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world. You were chosen to become like Him throughout all eternity. The time in between while you live, you are to live in Him and through Him and by Him.

Yet the current stress on sanctification mentions, very little about Christ, and cultivating an intimacy with Him.

How can you develop that intimacy with Christ?

- ✓ Study of God's Word,
- ✓ Through prayer, and
- ✓ Loving the Lord Jesus Christ.

Love makes to obey. Obedience to what you learn through the word and prayer.

### **Where did Paul find the strength for this?**

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

**Philippians 4:13**, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Christians are running all over the place trying to find strength in everything but an increasingly growing intimate profound relationship with the living Christ cultivated out of prayer, time in the Word and a growing affection for Him. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

**Philippians 4:19**, *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Every Christian's relationship is built on a continuing intimacy with Jesus Christ, therein comes the solution to all life's pressures.

### **How can Paul live like this?**

#### **How can he be a prisoner chained to some Roman?**

How can he go through everything he goes through and have a spirit that says, "I offer my life willingly and I rejoice in this?"

Paul was so close to Christ that he knew the very attitudes that were the attitudes of Christ in his own joyful self-sacrifice.

### **How do I reach that level?**

You have, beloved, dwelling in you the same Christ.

If you have appropriated His presence and continue to cultivate the union which will yield you the fullness of Joy.

## **Conclusion**

That which costs us nothing will not benefit others.

**2 Samuel 24:24**, *Then the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*

If there is no expenditure of tears and prayer, if that love of which the Apostle speaks in another place which costs is lacking, we may speak with the tongues of men and of angels, may know all mysteries and all knowledge, may bestow all our goods to feed the poor but it will profit nothing.

Let us rather seek to be poured forth as an offering, then to do much without feeling the least travail of soul.

The fertility of Egypt in any year is in direct proportion to the height that the waters of the Nile measure!

So, the amount of our real fruitfulness in the world is gauged by the expenditure of our spiritual force.

It was because Moses was prepared to be blotted from the book of God for his people that he carried them for forty years through the desert and deposited them on the very borders of the promised land.

It was because Jesus wept over Jerusalem that He was able to send a Pentecost on that guilty city.

It was because Paul was prepared to be accursed for his brethren according to the flesh that he was able to turn so many from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God.

What will you let go?