

## ***“Sharing Joy and Hope in Jesus!” #3***

### **Chapter 1: 27 - 30**

*Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel<sup>28</sup> without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.<sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,<sup>30</sup> since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.*

- In this portion of his, Paul encourages his fellow believers in Philippi to live lives “worthy of the gospel of Christ.” His description of that life includes “standing firm in one Spirit” and “striving together” for the faith of the gospel.
- We don’t usually think of suffering as a gift. Yet, Paul reminds the believers at Philippi that the opportunity to suffer for Jesus accompanies the gift of faith.

**According to Paul, what will result when believers conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel?**

**How does conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel look today?**

**Explain why Christians ought to view suffering for Jesus as a gift from God. Also discuss why we often have a difficult time with that concept.**

### **Chapter 2: 1 - 4**

*Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,<sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,<sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

- In these verses, Paul focuses on the relationship he longs to see among believers. Followers of Christ share a common faith. They are recipients of Jesus’ love. Their love for each other will naturally follow as a fruit of faith. Selfish ambition has no place in the family of God.

**Agree or Disagree: Congregations within our fellowship are shining examples of unity in the Lord and mutual concern for each other.**

## **Chapter 2: 5 – 11**

*<sup>5</sup> Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, <sup>7</sup> but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Evangelical Heritage Version)*

- Paul's encouragement for mutual concern among believers leads him to write about the selfless attitude Jesus displayed as he carried out his saving work. This portion of Philippians is appointed for use as the second lesson on Palm Sunday. This well-known section of Scripture leads us to contemplate the mystery of the two natures of Christ. Jesus is both true God and true man. We also have an opportunity to review bible truths regarding the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus. Jesus' state of humiliation is defined as the time he "chose to give up the full use of his heavenly glory." Jesus' state of exaltation is defined as the time he "again took up the full use of his heavenly glory."

**When did Jesus become true God? (Warning ... a trick question! See John 1)**

**When did Jesus become true man? (See John 1:14; Luke 2)**

**Why was it necessary for Jesus to be both true God and true man?**

**Why did Jesus "empty" and "humble" himself? (See verses above)**

**When did Jesus take up the full use of his divine power and glory as God?**

**It may sound like a silly question, but what is "the name of Jesus"?**

**When will every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord?**

**Jesus is more than an example of humility. How does knowing the truth about Jesus help us as we fight against the selfish ambition we find in our own hearts?**

### **Prayer**

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for humbling yourself and becoming obedient to death for me. You died the death I deserved. You gave me life and a future in heaven. Help me to honor your name in every aspect of my life. Open my mouth to confess you as Lord, here on earth, until I join the chorus of saints and angels in the life to come. Amen.