

INTRODUCTION

- * Paul had revealed to the church of Philippi that he considered himself and Timothy to be bond-slaves of Jesus Christ. As a result of this mindset, Paul was able to see that the afflictions which he was experiencing were to the benefit of the testimony of Jesus Christ ... and was therefore the preferable plan. Paul had revealed that he would much rather be in heaven with Christ, but as the bond-slave of Christ he recognized that it was more important for him to remain in the world to serve the church of Jesus Christ.
- * Paul then exhorted the church to take this same mindset. Last week we saw that Paul revealed to the Philippians that for them to take up the mind of Christ would require them to become selfless by placing the value and needs of others above their own desires. Indeed Jesus had modeled this for His disciples while He was on the earth. He, YHWH, took the nature of a bond-slave and came in the likeness of men in order that He might fulfill the law and redeem us through His obedience - even to the point of death on the cross.
- * Through this communication of Paul there has been a progression of thought in which he has artfully used various conjunctions to reveal purpose, causation, and exhortations. In our passage today, Paul is revealing three effects evidenced by an individual, or church, latching onto the mind of Christ.

INSTRUCTION

If you truly take on the mind of Christ, you need to ...

I. WORK OUT YOUR OWN DELIVERANCE! (v. 12-13)

A. How?

- * cf. Prov 1:7; 9:10; Psalm 111:10; Psalm 2:11; Isaiah 66:2; Acts 9:6; 2 Cor 5:10-11; Ephesians 6:5

B. Why?

- * cf. Hebrews 13:20-21

II. DO ALL THINGS WITHOUT COMPLAINING! (v. 14-16)

A. The D _____ (cf. Acts 6:1; 1 Peter 4:9; ... cf. Luke 9:46-48)

B. The R _____

1. IN ORDER THAT YOU CAN _____

- * cf. Luke 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; Hebrews 8:7-8; ... Mark 7:2; Romans 9:19
- * cf. Matthew 10:16; Romans 16:19

2. IN ORDER THAT YOU CAN _____

- * cf. Act 2:40; 1 Peter 2:18; ... Acts 13:8-10; 20:30
- * cf. Matthew 5:14-16

3. IN ORDER THAT I MAY _____

III. REJOICE TOGETHER WITH ME IN SACRIFICING SELF! (v. 17-18)

A. Why?

B. I Want you to join me in this Joy! (cf. Romans 12:1-2)

INTROSPECTION

- * When did you offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God? How much of you did you lay on the altar?
- * On a scale of 0 to 10, how bright is your "light" for Jesus Christ? ... Are you a "daylight" bulb? A "soft light" bulb? Or, a "black light"?
- * How often do you actively "hold forth the Word of Life" to those with whom you are in contact?
- * How do you "usually" respond to trials and afflictions? Are you a murmurer and complainer?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Read Titus 2:11-15. Why did Jesus come into the world? Specifically consider reasons listed in verse 11, 12, and 14.
- * Read John 12:35-36. Consider this passage from the perspective of us, as Jesus' disciples supposing to imitate and represent our Lord. In John 8, Jesus stated that He is the light of the world. Here, He declares that "the Light" may not be with them much longer and exhorts the hearer to believe in the light before the darkness overtakes them. How can this passage apply to Paul's exhortation to us as believers?