

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW:

(1:3–8) Thanks to God for the good work begun at Philippi (financial partnership)

(1:9–11) Prayer for the Philippians' love to abound still more in discernment so that they would approve the things that really matter (thru Christ enabling)—that they might be rewarded

(1:12–18) Paul's imprisonment has furthered the gospel, because:

1. Roman officials know that he is innocent, but is imprisoned for the gospel,
2. many brethren now boldly proclaim gospel w/ proper motivation w/o fear.
Even tho some brethren preach it from envy & strife (hoping to afflict Paul).
but Paul rejoices when the true gospel is proclaimed (something that matters)

(1:19–26) Paul expects the Lord to answer prayer that Paul not be ashamed, but that he magnify Christ in his body (thru life or thru death), but, as attractive as it is to be with the Lord, Paul wants to minister to the Philippians, so he prefers to remain alive (to go to Philippi)

(1:27–30) The Philippians' adversaries should not terrify them (by saying that the Philippians' are hell-bound because of their message) because the Philippians were heaven-bound because of their message, for God has given them the same opportunity to both believe the gospel and to suffer for Christ as Paul.

(2:1–2a) Believers should fulfill Paul's joy because:

- (1) believers' position in Christ exhorts/comforts them,**
- (2) the Father's love for believers comforts them,**
- (3) the Holy Spirit enables believers to fellowship with God and each other,**
- (4) [God enables] tenderness and affection to exist between believers**

(2:2b) Believers are to fulfill Paul's joy, specifically, believers should:

- (1) be like-minded,**
- (2) have mutual love for each other,**
- (3) have the same soul (as each other),**
- (4) be one-minded.**

(2:3) Believers are to do nothing according to selfish conceit, but to regard others as above selves

(2:4) We should not only look out for ourselves, but also for the interests of others

(2:5–8) *The Mindset of Christ in His First Advent:*

1. (2:5) [The basis of the exhorting us to have mutual love and to esteem others above ourselves is] that believers ought to have the same (gracious) mindset for others as Christ has towards us

2. (2:6) Although Jesus Christ was in the form of God, He did not consider equality with God something for which He should grasp (as a robber grasps for things)

A. The meaning of *form of God*

Many regard *being in the form of God* as the same as if it said *being God*

However, *being in the form of God* parallels *taking the form of a servant*

B. The meaning of *to be equal with God*

Many regard *to be equal with God* as the same as if it said *to be God*

However, *to be equal with God* contrasts with *He humbled Himself*

3. (2:7) [Rather than grasping after His equality with God] He emptied Himself by taking on the form of a bondservant and came [to earth] in the likeness of men

NKJ: *made Himself of no reputation*

Literal: *emptied Himself [of what?]*

The verb for *emptied* is *kenoō*. The equivalent noun is *kenōsis* “an emptying”

From this word, theologians coined a term many years ago: *kenōsis*.

Theologians agree that Christ emptied Himself, but not on what it was that He set aside:

A. Liberals falsely suppose that Christ emptied Himself of His deity.

B. Many conservatives say that Christ emptied Himself of His use of powers of deity.

C. A better option: Christ emptied Himself of _____

He emptied Himself by *taking the form of a bondservant*

(2:8) [In addition to coming to earth in the likeness of men] He was found [on earth] in appearance as a man, He [who was formerly in the form of God] humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of dying a death on a cross [as if He were a common criminal]

(2:9–11) What the Father Will Do for Christ:

(2:9) [In light of Christ not grasping after His equality w/ God, but coming as a bondservant who obediently died as a criminal on a cross] the Father exalted Him & gave Him the highest name

(2:10–11) The purpose for the Father exalting Christ and giving Him the supreme name is for all creation to bow before Him and to confess Jesus Christ as Lord to the Father's glory

CONCLUSION