

The Main Point: God fixes us. We choose to let him fix us. We choose not to fix each other, which is the key to getting along and getting on with the work of the Kingdom.

Overview

1-V1-2 Jesus said that the world out there would know we were his disciples by the way we love each other. God commands the blessing where there is peace. (Psalm 133) Paul exhorts the church to _____ wholeheartedly with each other, to _____ one another and to _____ together with one heart and purpose.

2-V2-4 People who act like "it's all about me" destroy community. Paul says don't be _____. Don't live to make a good _____. Be _____. Try to think of other people as not only as good as you are but _____ than you. Don't be obsessed with your own _____. Be _____ in other people and their lives.

3-V5-12 Jesus, God among us, was that way. He didn't demand his _____. He made self _____. He was born in the form of a common man, a _____. He humbled himself—choosing to die like a _____. It made him great.

4-V12-14 God's salvation includes an inner empowerment in us to become Christ-like. If we put into _____ his saving work, _____ God with reverence and _____. After all, we will all have to give account for what he has put into our lives. (2 Cor. 5:10) Once we start acting like what we are, we will find God has also given us _____ to grow.

5-V14-15 It is said that "life would be easy if it weren't for the people." We choose not to live by our feelings no matter how we are provoked. We will not _____ or _____. We want to be so on top of the way we act and speak that _____ can speak a word of _____ against us. That way, we can _____ light into the people around us trapped in world full of _____ and _____ people—show them Jesus in us.

6-V16-18 Paul considers that he may not get out of prison alive, that his life may be poured out like a drink _____. What will make it all worthwhile for him is if these people have such great Christian lives they are ready for Christ's _____ and Paul can be proud of them, seeing that his work among them was not _____.

7-V 19-24 Paul says that of all the people he has mentored and who serve with him, there is no one like _____. He cares about people's _____ and has been like a _____ to Paul. Paul hopes to _____ Timothy to them soon and will await a good report.

8-V28-30 The Philippian Church had sent one of their own, a young man named _____, to serve and help Paul in any way he could. However, he had become homesick. He had become _____ and almost _____. Paul says he is anxious to send Epaphroditus _____. Paul wants them to know how good he has been. He asks them to please _____ him and welcome him home with joy as one who had not only served him well but had _____ his life for Paul and _____ was at the point of death to do the things you _____ do because you were far away.

Word Study

• IS? • NOTHING • SAVING WORK • CONFESS • AGREE • TIMOTHY
• OFFERING

-1- 2:1 _____ Paul says three times, "Is there any?" It sounds like he is casting doubt upon the spiritual aliveness of the Philippian Christians. However, the Greek language is expressing actually—"because there is such love and its fruits, I expect to see a great unity among you." When Jesus looks at a Christian or a church community, he expects to see Holy Spirit fruit. ... love, joy, peace..... Galatians 5:23

-2- V2 _____ The question is often raised. If Christians are like Christ, why don't church communities agree with each other. Why are they so often full of gossip,

judgment, cruelty, and people doing things to each other that even the worst heathens wouldn't do? (1) The work of Satan is one answer to that. Love is the greatest evidence of the presence of Christ. Jesus said, "People will know you are my disciples because of your love for each other." (John 13:35) Satan puts forth his greatest effort to disrupt the Christian community. (2) Legalism is the work of people. Some Christians try to fix each other—something only Christ can do. "Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of ANOTHER? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master (Jesus) is able to make him (her) stand." Romans 14:4

-3- 2:6 _____ Jesus was and is always fully God. Yet he emptied himself of his glory and power. He became nothing. He was born into "the likeness of human flesh," (Romans 8:3) was "tempted like us in every way without sinning," (Hebrews 4:15) and he was able to suffer and die. The "Son of God" became a "son of fallen mankind."

Who is the most humble in the universe? Jesus, God the Son.

Who was the most weak in the universe? Jesus, God the Son.

Who has suffered most from sin in the whole universe? Jesus, God the Son.

-4- 2:9 _____ Jesus. Speak his name before and over everything evil.

• Right now all the angels and others of heaven bow before Jesus.

• Right now, every evil spirit and Satan will bow and obey at the name of Jesus spoken in faith.

• Right now, sickness, poverty and death--all curses--bow before the name of Jesus.

• Right now, we have the choice to bow before Him with love and gratitude.

• And in the last day even those who have resisted Jesus to the end will bow.

-5- 2:12 _____ Salvation or 'saving word of God.' The Greek word SOTERIAN is a form of the root word SOZO which means..."to preserve or rescue from natural dangers and afflictions...save from death...bring out safely from a situation fraught with mortal danger...save or free from diseases... from demonic possession... be restored to health, get well, keep, preserve in good condition... thrive, prosper, get on well...save or preserve from eternal death..." (Greek Lexicon) • Salvation is more than "preserve from eternal death." It is a package with many parts in it including character change and abundant life today. Putting salvation into action means "acting as if" it were in us and then finding out that power from on high truly has been poured into us. The Amplified Bible puts it ----"Not in your own strength for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you--energizing and creating in you the power and desire.."

-6- 2:17 _____ Paul speaking of his being poured out as a drink offering--as an offering of his life's blood for them--means that he may literally die for them...to promote and protect their faith. Similar to the way that the Lord's life's blood was poured out for our salvation.

-7- 2:19 _____ Timothy, Mark, Titus and others, were young men that Paul was mentoring--teaching them by word, example, and practice how to do the ministry of Jesus--building them up to be his successors. By this time Timothy was well equipped to do ministry and had been sent from Rome by Paul as his representative with authority. • Timothy was from Lystra. Paul met him there on his second missionary journey. His father was a Greek but his mother Eunice was a Jew. (Acts 16:1-3) Both his mother and his grandmother Lois were godly people who certainly prepared Timothy for the Lord's touch. (2 Timothy 1:5) • Timothy worked with Silas in Macedonia during Paul's second missionary journey. He worked in Corinth for a while with little success and was with Paul part of the time during his imprisonment in Rome. (Col. 1:1)

What does this Scripture say to you? _____