

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****PHILIPPIANS 2*****Philippians 2***

The Book of Philippians has intertwined themes throughout the four short chapters. Gratitude, joy, and fellowship are interwoven throughout the entire book. Joy and rejoicing, either written or unwritten, dominate Paul's letter. How easy it is to see that when a person is filled with gratitude, it leads to the characteristics of joy and humility and that, in the final conclusion, produces fellowship within the body of Christ. These four short chapters are some of the most concentrated in the entire New Testament of how God wants us to live before Him in loving one another. Fellowship in the Bible is much more than just the etymology or root meaning of *koinonia*, the transliterated English pronunciation of the Greek word. Its usage is to share, to participate, and to have common ground. The common ground that draws us together is the written Word of God that leads us to the Living Word of God and salvation and way of life in Him.

Remember, Paul is writing this epistle from a prison cell, so his circumstances, like the poor Philippians, had very little to do with their internal joy, which is a fruit of the Spirit according to Galatians 5. The Macedonian believers were the poorest of all those whom the Apostle dealt with in his missionary journeys.

Paul looked at his imprisonment as an opportunity to share the gospel with people he would otherwise never be able to reach. Can you imagine what it was like to be guarding the Apostle Paul? It was Jesus in the evening,

morning, and noon time. If they killed him, he would be better off than on earth. If they let him live, that was better for them and all of us. ***"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. So, what shall I choose? I do not know. I am torn between the two. I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better indeed."*** (Philippians 1:21-23)

Chapter 2 deals with the ***mind of Christ***, who is One with the Father and Holy Spirit, yet He did not consider His position, but rather, humbled Himself and took on flesh, robbed His glory, and became a man. One of the great mysteries that our simple and finite minds cannot grasp is how Jesus, one hundred percent God, could also humble Himself and become one hundred percent man. He did this to be able to die in our place. Jesus lived in perfect obedience to the Father's will. He did this in a sin-cursed world, where everyone around Him was fallen, and no part of His creation that had not been touched by the curse of sin, yet He did not sin. Contrast that with Adam, who was placed into a sinless, pristine God-created world where sin had never been introduced, and the world and universe were still in a state of perfection. With all that perfection and beauty, Adam chose to rebel against God. Jesus lived perfectly so He could take the place of fallen man as a substitutionary sacrifice to shed His blood for our sins. Wherefore, God highly exalted Him and gave Him a name that is above any and every name.

***Prayer and Action Steps***

*Thank you, Lord Jesus, that You emptied Yourself of Your glory and came to earth as a servant and became obedient unto death, even death on a cruel Roman cross of torture. May Your resurrected life be lived in and through us. Amen*