**Joy in Serving**

March 7, 2018 Philippians 2:19-30

The qualities of the mind of Christ:

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The qualities of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of Christ led Him to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ that makes the ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_difference in the lives of His people.

God’s salvation is a threefold work:

1. The work God does\_\_\_\_\_\_\_us: salvation fully accomplished gift from God that is IN us.

2. The work God does\_\_\_\_\_\_us: sanctification; through the Holy Spirit IN us.

3. The work God does\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_us: service; He pours IN – and we work OUT in Christ.

Matt Chandler excerpt from **To Live Is Christ To Die Is Gain**on Philippians 2:12-13:

 *“Paul acknowledges here that this isn’t natural. What would be natural is to look out for yourself. Selfish ambition and conceit. That would be natural.*

 *Paul talks about an all-out denial of self, a death of self. That is why he turns to the cross. And because none of us turn to the cross naturally, Paul reminds us of the gospel of grace. God in His power grants us in His great love the supernatural ability to seek the cross.*

 *He does this by first giving us the mind of Christ. In Philippians 2:5 when the apostle says, “have this mind among yourselves,” he’s not just saying, “Try hard to think like Jesus.” He tells us that we have this mind. It is part of the gift of the gospel. It is an act of grace. He says that the mind of Christ “is yours in Christ Jesus.” (v. 5) You have this mind, in other words. So use it.*

 *Second, Paul tells the church to work out its salvation with fear and trembling (2:12) but he won’t disconnect that difficult command from its gracious empowering: “FOR IT IS GOD who works in you (2:13). The sin you do? Natural. The good you do for others? Supernatural. Always remember the gospel, so you won’t forget that God will not expect something of you that He won’t both empower you to obey and forgive you for not obeying.*

 *Always, always, always seek the cross. It is there that we see our example for service and sacrifice to others. It is there that we get the power to serve and sacrifice for others. And it is there that we receive forgiveness when we fail in serving and sacrificing for others.”*

Timothy Trivia

* What was his mother’s name?
* What was his grandmother’s name?
* What was Timothy’s ethnicity?
* What town was he from?
* In how many books of the New Testament is his name included as co-author with Paul?
* Can you name any of them?

Notes on Timothy

Which ‘21’ am I turning? We’re all turning toward one . . .

Philippians 1:21 – “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain”

Philippians 2:21 – “For they all see their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”

Notes on Epaphroditus

Nicknames – write your favorite(s) here:

Parallel meaning of terms Paul used for Epaphroditus:

My brother = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel (1:5)

Fellow worker = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel (1:12)

Fellow soldier = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel (1:27)

Joy in serving

It is one of the paradoxes of the Christian life that the more we give, the more we receive; the more we sacrifice, the more God blesses. Living lives that resemble Christ means we share in His joy and His sufferings here and in the hereafter to the praise and glory of God.