

Let This Mind Be In You

By

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Table of Contents

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4	1
PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11	3
THE MIND IN PHILIPPIANS	4
DOERS OF THE WORD	6
BIBLIOGRAPHY	8

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

Paul opens Philippians chapter two with the conjunction “if” which is used four times in verse one providing a vital link between chapters one and two. The Apostle rejoiced with the Philippians for their fellowship in the gospel from the very first day¹ and reminded them of his desire to see them remain steadfast in one spirit, having one mind, and striving together for the Gospel. The Apostle’s use of the word “if” draws attention too and reminds the believers of the full supply they were experiencing from God; consolation in Christ, comfort of love, fellowship of the Spirit, and the bowels of mercies they exhibited in their care for the Apostle.

¹ Philippians 1:5,6

Having experienced God's provision from the Philippians the Apostle Paul exhorted the believer's to esteem each other better than themselves to ensure that their service would remain operative while safe guarding against inner rivalry and strife. J.N. Darby observes the Apostle desired the Philippians to "make this joy perfect by the full establishment of the same bond of love...allowing no rivalry or vainglory to display itself in any way."²

D.E. Hiebert further observes the Apostle's "pastoral heart which prompted him to give needed exhortations and urged harmony and unity."³

² J.N. Darby, *Synopsis of the Bible, Vol. 4*, (Kingston, MI, Believer's Bookshelf, Inc., 1992), 500.

³ Merrill Tenney, ed., *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, Vol.4*, (Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan Publishing House, 1975), 766.

Verses 1-4 perfectly sets up the Apostle's justification for and use of the highly practical and Christological passage following in verses 2:5-11.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

The thrust of the foregoing observations reinforces the apostle's mind and present situation; he was bound for the Gospel and suffering, yet supplied by God's manifold provision experiencing the Spirit's strength, comfort, and care. As the Apostle was *taught* by the Spirit, so too he would *urge* the saints (in adverse circumstances) to imitate Christ and have His mind. He who ever existed as God; and thought it not robbery (literally a thing to

be grasped and retained⁴) to be equal with god, but made himself of no reputation, took upon himself the form of a servant and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and becoming obedient unto death, even death on a cross. As a result, God hath highly exalted him and given Him a name that is above every name. He who has gone before, even Jesus is our great exemplar.

THE MIND IN PHILIPPIANS

The principle idea of Philippians is found in the word *mind*. James Strong defines this word: “to set one’s mind on; to have a (certain) attitude.”⁵

⁴ Grimm’s Wilke’s Clavis Nov Testamenti, trans. Joseph H. Thayer (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977) p.74, Strong’s number 725.

⁵ The Strongest Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Large Print ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2001), Strong’s# 5426, p.2073.

Though absent, the Apostle exhorted the believers to have the mind of Christ; perhaps recalling the Savior's words "a house divided against itself cannot stand."⁶ The Savior's humiliation exhibited true wisdom from above being first peaceable, full of good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. Having the mind of Christ will ensure Satan will not get an advantage⁷ whether the Apostle was absent or present.

The primary and secondary application here is universal. The Apostle's desire for the Philippians applies to one and all. He desired they (we) would approve what is more excellent and be sincere

⁶ Matthew 12:25(b)

⁷ 2 Corinthians 2:11(b)

having no offense unto the day of Christ; He was confident too that if they were otherwise minded God would reveal this to them.⁸

DOERS OF THE WORD

The impact of this passage (having identified the key principle of the passage) is applying what I've learned to my life first and foremost. I have learned that knowing the scriptures takes a lifetime and can't be rushed, but knowing Savior and His abiding presence can be known day by day.⁹

When I get taken up with myself I miss out on His mind; I puff up and I am easily agitated. My

⁸ Philippians 1:10; 3:15

⁹ John 17:3

discontent hinders me from walking in the good works God has before prepared, my feet are not shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, and I cease to love His people and forget about His appearing.¹⁰

I have learned and am reminded of the simplicity that is in Christ; as I go I hope to pray without hesitation, act in faith striving to maintain a clear conscience ever heralding the gospel for the time is at hand. I hope too that in nowise will this desire be hindered by personal indifference, love of this world, or complacency knowing I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me; I trust God too will perform it until the Day of Christ.¹¹

¹⁰ 2 Timothy 4:8; Ephesians 2:10; 6:15

¹¹ Philippians 4:13; 1:6

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Darby, J.N, *Synopsis of the Bible, Vol. 4*. Kingston: Believer's Bookshelf, Inc., 1992.

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Notes

Revision 3a

“But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22

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