

## Philippians 2:1-11

### Context

1. *What can you learn about the person or situation to which the letter is written?*
  - a. Given the emphasis on unity, perhaps there was some type of disharmony or conflict in the congregation (1-4)
2. *What clues are there about the author and his circumstances?*
  - a. He desires
3. *What was the main point of the passage immediately before this one? Are there logical or thematic connections to the passage you are reading?*
  - a. Main point: Stand firm together in a manner worthy of the gospel
  - b. Logical/thematic connections:
    - i. One mind (1:27; 2:2, 5)
    - ii. So/then (2:1)

### Observations

1. *Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? Are there key connecting words (for, therefore, but, because) that indicate the logical flow of the passage?*
  - a. Key connecting words
    - i. So/then (1)
    - ii. if ... [then] (1ff.)
    - iii. and (2)
    - iv. or (3)
    - v. but (3)
    - vi. not only ... but also (4)
    - vii. though (6)
    - viii. but (7)
    - ix. and (8)
    - x. even (8)
    - xi. Therefore (9) – result
    - xii. and (9)
    - xiii. so that (10) – purpose
    - xiv. and (10) – x2
    - xv. and (11)
    - xvi. to (11) – result
  - b. Other connecting words (relative pronouns, etc.)
    - i. which (5) – description of mind
    - ii. who (6) – description of Christ Jesus
    - iii. that (9) – description of the name

Note 1: Some words function as connectors (conjunctions) sometimes and in other ways at other times (prepositions, etc.)

- “to”
  1. (4) – where the reader should look
  2. (6) – “to be” (infinitive)
  3. (8) – the extent of Christ’s obedience
- “that”



- a. That it is framed in the context of Paul's personal joy

## **Meaning**

1. *How does this text relate to other parts of the book?*
  - a. Paul's joy for the Philippians (1:4; 2:2)
  - b. One way in which their lives can be worthy of the gospel of Christ (1:27)
    - i. Their partnership in the gospel (1:5)
  - c. Increasing, abounding love as a desire of Paul for them (1:9; 2:2)
  - d. The resulting glory of God (1:11; 2:11)
2. *How does this passage relate to Jesus?*
  - a. The humble example of Christ serves as a significant motivator for the believer (2:5ff.)
  - b. In Christ, this mind/attitude is available to us (2:5)
  - c. The passage teaches a wealth of doctrinal truth about Christ – his identity, his work, the relationship between the Father and the Son, his relationship to creation
3. *What does this teach you about God?*
  - a. The ultimate purpose of God's work in and through Christ was to glorify himself (2:11)
4. *How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?*
  - a. A congregation should pursue unity for their pastor's personal joy and because of the example of the church's Lord and Savior.

## **Application**

1. *How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?*
  - a.
2. *Is there some attitude you need to change?*
  - a.
3. *How does this passage call on you to change the way you live?*
  - a.