

Philippians 2:1-18 - The Model of Mission

Philippians – An Outline

Main Structures	Paul's circumstances 1:1-26	Paul's appeal 1:27-2:30	Paul's example 3:1-21	Paul's exhortations 4:1-23
Key Theme	True <i>Koinonia</i>	True Humility, Obedience	True Righteousness	True Joy and Contentment
Specific Implication	Suffering	Submission	Salvation	Sanctification
Framework	Experience	Explication	Encouragement	
OUTCOME	Christ our Life	Christ our Mind	Christ our Goal	Christ our Strength
Key verse:	<i>"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."</i> (1:21)	<i>"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,..."</i> (2:5)	<i>"Indeed, I count everything as lost because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."</i> (3:8)	<i>"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."</i> (4:13)

Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Key themes:

- Koinonia – lit. partnership, fellowship, communion or participation (Philippians 1:5, 2:1 and 3:10).
Unity affects the church and her mission (Phil. 4:2-3. See John 17:20-23)
- 2. Joy - Philippians 1:3, 1:25, 2:2, 2:17-18; 2:28, 2:29, 3:1, 4:1 and 4:4.

"If their salvation has been secured by the suffering of another on their behalf, their discipleship is to be demonstrated in their suffering on his behalf."

D. A. Carson, *Basics For Believers*, Leicester: Inter-varsity Press, 1995. page 53.

Philippians 2:1-4 – The Cause

- Vs 1-2: Complete Paul's joy by being united in mind, love and one accord.
- Vs 3 – do not allow selfish ambition or conceit to prosper.
- Vs 4 - look to ourselves but to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:5-11 – The Christ

- Vs 6-7: **His Incarnation** – he left his divine privileges to become a man in lowly servanthood.
- Vs 8: **His Passion** – he humbly became obedient to death on a terrible cross.

- Vs 9-11: His Exaltation – God gave him the highest name, so that all will bow and call him Lord.

Philippians 2:12-18 – The Call

- Vs 12-13: “Therefore, my beloved...”
- “work out your salvation...for ... God ... works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”
- Firstly, vs 14 – no grumbling or complaining.
- Second, vs 15-16a – be blameless and people of integrity in your witness in a dark world, as you hold to the word of life.

The church’s influence as a witnessing community is described in the language of the influence of light in a dark place (cf. 2 Pet. 1:19).

Ralph P. Martin, *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries – Philippians*, Illinois:IVP Academic, 2008, page 88.

- Thirdly, vs 16b-18. Paul would not have laboured in vain and would be proud of them on the day of Jesus’ return. He would be a drink offering to their sacrificial offering of faith (see Numbers 15:1-10, 28:1-8).

QUESTION FOR US ALL

What Kind of Church in Mission will we Be?