

/Hello. / We will begin the ninth lecture on the prison epistles./ Today we will study Philippians chapter 2. / The title is “Imitating Christ.”

/The following are the main points of this lecture. / First, help others with humility. Verses 1-4. / Second, have the same mindset as Jesus. Verses 5-8. / Third, God exalts those who have the same mindset as Jesus. Verses 9-11.

/Fourth, work out your salvation. Verses 12-18. / Fifth, two people with the mindset of Jesus. Verses 19-30.

/(1) Timothy. Verses 19-24. / (2) Epaphroditus. Verses 25-30.

/Now onto the first point, help others with humility. Verses 1-4.

/Read verse 1. / If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,

/It is important that we encourage and comfort one another in the church. / Communication with the Holy Spirit and showing pity and compassion to others is also very important. / These benefit each member of the church and the church itself.

/A brother’s sin should not be handled only with rebuke. / Love and compassion are necessary as well. / When our brother is weak and cannot stand up, we must encourage him with open hearts.

/That is how the law of love and Christ are fulfilled. / Whenever a brother is tempted, we must encourage him with loving hearts.

/We must also lead him to God, so that he would live properly before God by serving the church.

/Verse 2. / then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

/It says, “being like-minded.” / It also says, “having the same love.” / It also says, “being one in spirit and purpose.” / When we get rid of our selfish desires in the gospel and the truth and sacrifice ourselves, we can be like-minded.

/We can be of one mind when we get rid of our selfishness and have a heart for the church. / It also says, “having the same love.” / When we love Jesus and the church, then we all can be of one mind.

/Whoever truly loves Jesus, / will love the church, which is the body of Christ. / He will also actively participate in church works. / All members of the church should have the same love.

/It also says, “being in one spirit.” / We can be one in spirit when we put away our will and go forward in God’s will, / and when we put away our thoughts and build up the truth.

/Therefore, we must reach the place where we can do the will of Jesus Christ and of God. / When all believers abandon their own wills and pursue and obey God’s will, then we can be of one spirit.

/It also says, “being of one mind.” / Each of us have different minds. / Yet, when we put ourselves aside and have the heart of Christ, we can be of one mind.

/This is written in verses 5-10. / Verses 5-10 talk about the heart of Christ.

/Verse 3. / Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

/Even if a believer does the works of God, / he is to “do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,” as written in the verse. / We must get rid of selfish ambition or vain conceit, and in humility consider others better than ourselves.

/In Matthew 7:3, / in Matthew 7:3, / we read about the speck of sawdust in our brother’s eye and the plank in our own eyes. / The faults of our brothers are small like specks of dust. / These are outward mistakes and sins that we can see.

/However, there is corruption within people, which we cannot see. / This is compared to

planks. / We cannot look into people's inner thoughts. / All we can see are the mistakes and sins that are seen externally.

/If we were to compare them to the corruption within us, those mistakes would be very small.
/ This is the reason why we must examine ourselves before we attempt to expose other people's faults.

/We will be humbled once we realize how depraved we are. / The prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah / humbled themselves before God when they discovered God. / We must always be humble.

/Verse 4. / Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

/We must first look to our own interests. / We must have the mindset to be responsible for our works. / "Someone will help me." / We must not depend on others, but we must take responsibility for our own works.

/Not only that, but the verse tells us to look to the interests of others. / This is the law of Christ, the law of love. / God is pleased with those who help others in need and he blesses those who do so.

/It says that the highest in heaven are those who served others most. / This is why those who help others are more blessed than those who are being helped. / As a joke, it is said that spoons are long in heaven.

/Because the spoons are so long, one cannot feed himself with a spoon. / Hence, the people feed each other.

/Those who served most are the greatest in heaven. / Let us be humble and help others.

/Second, have the same mindset as Jesus. Verses 5-8.

/It says in verse 5, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." / What is the mindset of Jesus? / It is humility. / It is serving others. / It is obedience to God.

/Verses 6-8. / Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

/We can see the mindset that Jesus had. / First, in verses 6-8, / it says, “who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.”

/First, Jesus became low and abandoned the glorious throne of God. / This means that if we want to have the same mindset as Jesus, we must abandon our pride and desire for honor.

/Just as Jesus let go of the glorious place, we must be humble if we want the mindset of Jesus. / It says in the verse, “made himself nothing.” / This refers to the state of having nothing.

/This is an empty heart, a poor heart, and the state of having nothing. / We can say that becoming like a child is to have the heart of Jesus. / What is the mindset of Jesus? / Second, Jesus took on the nature of a servant.

/This does not mean that Jesus simply called Himself a servant, but He truly became a servant. / Thus, when we say that we have the mindset of Jesus, it means that we have truly become a servant. / We are not just called servants, but our positions have become that of a servant.

/Jesus said that He did not come to be served, but to serve. / Also, the greatest in heaven are those who served most. / What else is the mindset of Jesus? Third, it is to become low.

/The Creator Jesus Christ became low when He took on the body of a man. / There was a swineherd. / He was an excellent swineherd.

/One day, someone asked him, “How do you tend your pigs so well? / Then the swineherd answered, “When the pigs are cold, I am cold, and when the pigs are hungry, I must be hungry as well.”

/The man had the mindset of pigs. / He knew when the pigs would be cold and knew when

the pigs would be hungry, and therefore, he was able to tend his pigs well. / Here, a man became like a pig, and he became very low.

/However, Jesus Christ took on the appearance of man, which means He was lowered far more than the man who became like a pig. / Jesus was sinless, / but He took up our sins and redeemed us on the cross.

/Our Lord lowered Himself and obeyed to the point of death on the cross. / We must become low if we want to have the mindset of Jesus.

/Fourth, concerning the mindset of Jesus, / He obeyed until death on the cross. / Jesus obeyed to the point of death so that He would obey God's will.

/He knew God's will and His calling, and then died to obey God's will. / Jesus obeyed and fulfilled God's will.

/We believers must also have the mindset of Jesus, who obeyed to the point of death to fulfill God's will.

/Now let us move on to the third point. / God exalts those who have the same mindset as Jesus. Verses 9-11.

/When we have the same mindset as Jesus, God exalts us as he exalted Jesus. / God will exalt those who have the same mindset as Jesus, just as God exalted Jesus.

/God will exalt us like Jesus when we have the same mindset as Jesus. / How did God exalt Jesus?

/Verse 9. / Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

/It says, "God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name." / God will exalt us just as Joseph became prime minister of Egypt. / Second, it says that every knee will bow down before Jesus.

/In this way, every knee will bow before all those who have same mindset as Jesus. / It is the same as when all the officials bowed down before Joseph when he became prime minister.

/Third, all tongues will acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Lord. / For example, when Joseph became prime minister, all the people had no choice but to kneel before him. / However, everyone will voluntarily come to kneel before Jesus.

/How excellent was Joseph in politics? / Though people were forced to kneel before him at first, / everyone knelt before him with good hearts when they saw his virtue.

/Then God the Father was glorified. / In the same way, God exalts those who have the same mindset as Jesus Christ. / All knees will come and bow before Jesus.

/Just as every tongue later acknowledged Jesus as the Lord with joy, / all knees will bow before Him. / In other words, God's works will go well and God will be glorified.

/We must have the same mindset as Jesus and be humble. / When we do so, God's works will be well.

/Fourth main point. Work out your salvation. Verses 12-18.

/Verse 12. / Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

/It says, “as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” / Working hard only when a leader is watching and being lazy when the leader is absent shows one's lack of maturity in faith.

/When one claims he had good faith when he had a good leader, / and says that he has bad faith because he now does not have a good leader, he is not upright in his faith. / Therefore, we must have faith before God.

/It says, “work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” / “Salvation” refers to deliverance from sin. / What does “work out your salvation” mean?

/It refers to our state of gradual deliverance from sin. / Whoever believed in Jesus Christ was forgiven of his sins the moment he believed. / He was legally saved. / His spirit was reborn.

/However, the flesh is still in sin. / This is why we must put off the corrupted natures of our flesh. / Our born again souls grow gradually. / At first we were like a child, / but we grew mature as we ate solid food.

/Even if a newborn baby is covered in blood, the baby still is a human being. / If people believed in Jesus / and have been reborn, they are still alive, though they may be child-like in their faith. / However, they drink milk because they are like infants..

/Therefore, we grow as we begin to eat solid food. / We are slowly made into God’s people as we gradually get rid of our depraved natures.

/The born again soul gradually grows. This is what it means to work out our salvation. / “Work out your salvation” means to become more and more like Christ.

/When we believers go to heaven, / we go in the state our souls had grown to. / Those who believed well and grew will become the greatest in heaven. / There are great ones and little ones in heaven.

/Those whose souls have not grown are like children. / Let us say that there was a rich family with a younger son and an elder son. / The children did not lack anything because they were born into a rich family.

/However, can the younger son drive around in a car? / The boy is happy even if he drinks milk. / The grown son would be able to drive a car and do a lot of other things.

/There is a difference in what the younger son and the grown son can enjoy. / Even in heaven, there is a difference in what the great ones can enjoy and what the little ones can enjoy.

/There is a difference in the rewards. / Therefore, we must have faith and grow in our faith.

/Verse 13. / for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

/God works in us. / God holds us, leads us, and works in us. / When we obey his guidance, we can work out our salvation. / We must obey.

/Because God works in us, we obey his will. / We must not be led by our stubbornness or thoughts. / Instead, we must obey the guidance of God and his Word.

/Even if we are faced with tribulations and face harm, / and even if we are going to die, / we must still obey God's Word and his will. / That is success, even if we are beaten as a result of it.

/Even if we die, we will have lived a successful life because we obeyed God's will. / It also says, "to will and to act according to his good purpose." / God wants us believers to work out our salvation.

/God gives us the strength to do so. / We must understand this, and when God moves our hearts, we must be able to obey.

/Verse 14. / Do everything without complaining or arguing,

/Complaining hearts and arguing hearts all belong to Satan. / These harm ourselves and the others. / There are four sins that led to the destruction of the Israelites in the wilderness.

/They are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 10:10. / In 1 Corinthians 10:10, it talks about the grumbling hearts they had towards God. / They grumbled against Moses, which was to grumble against God. / Their grumbling hearts led to their destruction. / They were sexually immoral and were destroyed.

/They tested God and they were destroyed. / Their idolatry led them to destruction. / In the church today, we must strive so that we do not have grumbling or arguing hearts. / In order for that to happen, we must do what the Bible says.

/Not everything can go according to our will. / Even if it does, we must strive to fulfill God's will first.

/Verse 15. / so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe

/It says, "children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation." / This world is crooked and depraved. / It rebels against God.

/Therefore, if a believer chooses to follow the world, his faith will eventually become corrupted. / This is because the world is at rebellion against God. / What this means is that we will be persecuted as we try to live according to the Bible.

/However, as we obey God's Word in the midst of persecutions, our light will surely shine. / The world insults us that we are "special" as we try to hold onto our faith.

/However, when they see us overcome troubles and persecutions, the light will shine. / Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego entered the furnace. / Yet, when they came out, they received more glory than before.

/We are the light of this world. / We shine in the world when we hold on to our faith.

/Verse 16. / as you hold out the word of life – in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

/It says, "the word of life." / This refers to the Bible. / Our souls live when we take the Bible and enter into the world of truth. / The Word gives life.

/Therefore, it is important that we evangelize, build up the church and share the truth. / We cannot shine the Word of life if we do not stand in the truth.

/The light of the truth can shine when those who know the truth build up the church. / Then nothing will have been done in vain. / There will be many things to boast about at the Second Coming of Christ.

/There will be things to boast about at Jesus' return if we obeyed God's Word and kept our faith. / A mother told her children, "I am going out for a while. Have fun with each other until I come back," and went out.

/If the children had a good time and cleaned their rooms, they would want their mother to come home soon. / Then when she comes home, each of them would boast of their work.

/In the same way, when we hold firmly to the Word of truth and keep our faith, each of us will boast of one another at the Lord's return.

/It says in verses 17-18 that the believers of Philippi held onto their faith. / They gave offerings of faith and served with eagerness. / Paul said that he would still be glad even if he was poured out like a drink offering.

/A "drink offering" is sacrifice that is poured out. / This symbolizes Paul's mindset as a martyr. / Paul meant that he would rejoice even if he died at the place like a drink offering.

/Paul cherished the Philippi believers' strong faith as if it was his life.

/There were two people who had the same mindset as Jesus. / The first person was Timothy and the other was Epaphroditus. / What was Timothy like? / As we can see in verse 19, Paul was imprisoned in Rome.

/The believers of Philippi prayed for Paul and they were worried about him. / Thus, Paul decided to send Timothy to find out how they were doing.

/We can see here that Paul loved them very much. / We can see in verse 20 that Paul sent Timothy to let his will be known to them and to find out how they were doing.

/The only person Paul thought was suitable for the job was Timothy. / Timothy was a leader in the church, and we should be like him today. / The pastors must show genuine concern for the members of the church.

/What was Timothy like? / It says that Timothy looked out for the interest of Jesus Christ, while everyone looked out for his own. /There are many pastors who look out for their own interests.

/For them, their interests come first, while God's interest comes next. / They are hypocritical pastors. / We, on the other hand, must be like Timothy / and John the Baptist, / and Christ should be more and we be less, / the church should be more while we become less.

/It is wicked to harm the church and cover the glory of God, for one's self-benefit.

/In verse 22, we can see that Timothy was also persecuted. / Also, Timothy served Paul like a father and worked until the end for the gospel. / Timothy served like a servant.

/Verses 23-24. / I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

/From verse 25, Paul talks about Epaphroditus. / Paul was going to send Timothy first, but plans changed and he sent Epaphroditus first.

/What was Epaphroditus like? / He was a fellow worker, / a fellow soldier, / and one who was sent to take care of Paul's needs. / The gifts of the Philippi believers were sent through him.

/However, in verse 26, Epaphroditus became ill. / Paul was worried that the church of Philippi would be worried to hear the news.

/In the same way, whenever we are sick or have done something wrong, we must be worried that it would cause other believers to become anxious. / Of course, members of the church must serve their pastors.

/Therefore, pastors must know the situations of believers, and they must make sure that they do not make believers anxious.

/As written in verse 26, Epaphroditus became well. / God showed him mercy. / He also showed mercy to Paul. / This was because Epaphroditus became sick while he was helping Paul.

/Paul was sorry and was worried for him. / God heard Paul's prayer and made Epaphroditus well, and Paul's worries were gone. / Hence, he first sent Epaphroditus.

/As written in verse 28, his recovery was joy for the church of Philippi. / It also comforted them. / This was why Paul first sent him immediately. / Also, in verse 29, it says "honor men like him."

/We must also honor God's servants. / We must also honor those like him.

/Verse 30. / because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

/This verse is the reason why Paul told the believers to honor Epaphroditus. / He almost died in illness. He risked his life for the work of Christ. / Paul taught them to "honor those like him." / We must honor God's servants.

/With this we will conclude the ninth lecture on the prison epistles. / Thank you very much.