

## Philippians 2: 9-18 NIV

### "Obedience is Better than Sacrifice"

There is no greater love and no greater example to follow, than the pattern and footprints of our Savior. Paul told the Philippians, that even though they faced persecution and danger, their lives should be consistent with the truth of God in Jesus who gave himself up in love for others. It's not about the level of pain you can tolerate, but how much sacrifice you're willing to give. Suffering for Jesus' sake is a way of living out the gospel. Let us practice what we preach. To live out the Word, you become a "doer" of the Word for the advancement of the Gospel. Paul told them the important thing, "Christ is preached." Stand firm in one spirit. Let us contend as one man for the faith of the Gospel without being afraid of those who oppose us. Be with one accord, do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility think about others better than ourselves. Let us imitate Christ Jesus who willingly honored and obeyed His Father unto death, even the death of the cross.

## Philippians 2

**9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, (Eph 1:21 NIV) Far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. The cross is the ultimate symbol of weakness and humiliation in the Roman world, yet it became the means by which Christ achieved the most exalted position imaginable.

**10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth, and under the earth; 11 And every tongue (should) confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Despite your free-will to choose, Christ will get the glory whether you choose him or not. No Christian should ever waste the opportunity to be a witness for the Lord. A day is coming when, "should" becomes "will". **(Romans 14:10 KJV) for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, 11 for as it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.** In **(Matt 1:21)** Christ was given the name Jesus, but in his exaltation, He was given the name, "Lord". **(Acts 4:12 NIV) Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.**

**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, **13** for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose (pleasure).

Paul being their spiritual leader and mentor is grateful to hear that "Unity" is being maintained. The Lord has assigned each of us a task. The Holy Spirit will help us work out what God has put in us. **Let** us think of others better than ourselves. **(1Cor 3:6-9a NIV) I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9a For we are God's fellow workers; (Phil 1:6 NIV) Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.** Salvation cannot be earned, it was given to us. It is an inside job. Christ must work in us before he can work through us. Christians day by day are transformed into the likeness of Christ. **(Eph 1:4,5 NIV) For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.** Work out means to be Christlike, to be conformed to his image. **(Romans 8:29)** Obedience is better than sacrifice. Why do I do what I do? **(Gal.2:20 NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

**14** Do everything *without* complaining (murmurings) and arguing (disputing): (**Numbers 11:1a**) And When the people complained, it displeased the Lord: We must be unified with Christ. (**Nehemiah 6:3**) "*I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down*": Spiritual priorities are necessary to maintain the bond of peace. Let us then keep the main thing, the main thing.

**15** So that you may become blameless and pure (harmless), children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe. (**Colossians 3:12,13 NIV**) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive, as the Lord forgave you. We must be about our Father's business. We have work to do. The markings of God's children should start with a submissive mind. When you submit to Christ, you also leave the results to Him. (**Romans 14:16-19**) Let not your good be evil spoken of. (**Matt 5:16 KJV**) Let your light so shine before men, that they might see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

**16** As you *hold out* (hold on to) the word of life, in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. (**Psalms 119:105,114 KJV**) Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word. Paul's witness in Philippi illustrates what he taught them. He has been unjustly beaten and thrown into prison. He had a good reason to complain but he didn't. Like Paul we should learn to suffer well for Christ's sakes. Glorify God now.

**17** But even if I am *being poured out* like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. **18** So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. How do you know that your living and service to the Lord is not in vain? Your soul says "Yes". (**Rev. 12:11 NLT**) And they have defeated him (Satan) by the blood of the lamb and by their testimony. And they did **not** love their lives so much that they were afraid to die. As Paul awaits his trial, he challenges the church to live a life worthy of his dedication to them. (2Tim4:6)

**Song:** Jesus, Jesus, Jesus; There's just something about that name. Master, Savior, Jesus, like the fragrance after the rain. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, let heaven and earth proclaim, kings and kingdoms will all pass away, But there's something about that name.