I.-BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A.-The Personalness Of The Epistle:

1-Most personal of all Pauline letters not written to individuals
2-Over 100 uses of first person pronoun
3-Why so personal?
--Not a boastful spirit
--Not a defense of his ministry
--But because Philippians had been intensely loyal to him
--So he could speak freely of his tribulations and spiritual ambitions

B.-The Timing Of The Epistle:

1-Practically a decade since Paul, Silas & Luke had first come to Philippi
2-Church included many women who had labored with him in the gospel (4:3)---perhaps close friends of Lydia (Acts 16:14-15)
3-Church had supported him in his ministry
--Twice in earlier days (4:16)
--Not in recent years (4:10)
--News of his imprisonment in Rome revived their sympathetic interest (4:10-19)
4-Epaphroditus--2:25
--"your messenger"=="your pastor" (Rev.1:20)
--Brought gifts from Phs.
--Had taken seriously ill
--Had recovered in answer to prayer (2:25-27; Jas. 5:13-18)
--Being sent back with Paul's "THANK YOU" letter (2:28-29)

C.-Date Of The Epistle:

1-Date is uncertain as to preciseness
2-Well into Paul's 2 year imprisonment in Rome
--News got to Philippi
--Philippians gathered together a gift
--Epaphroditus traveled to Rome with the gift
--Illness & recovery of Epaphroditus
--Paul's reputation with Praetorian Guard (1:13)
--Penetration of Gospel into Caesar's household (4:22)
--Factions of preachers who supported & who envied Paul to arise (1:15-16)
--Appearance of confidence of a near release for further service (1:23-26; 2:17, 24)

D.-Occasion Of The Epistle:

1-No particular heresy or schism in the church that calls for disciplinary action (SEE Scofield's Introductory note "Theme"

2-Judaizers are seen (3:2) as a potential danger, rather than as a present one

3-Mild encouragement of ladies (4:1-3) to behave like christian ladies should

4-Thanks for gift sent to him

5-Encouragement to walk worthy of heavenly citizenship (3:17-21)

II.-TWO PROMINENT TOPICS IN PHILIPPIANS:

A.-The Gospel:

1-Mentioned 9 times in 104 verses:

--1:5--"your fellowship in the gospel"
--1:7--"the defense & confirmation of the gospel"
--1:12--"the furtherance (progress) of the gospel"
--1:17--"the defense of the gospel"
--1:27--"as it becometh (is worthy of) the gospel"
--1:27--"striving together for the faith of the g."
--2:22--"served with me in the gospel"
--4:3--"labored with me in the gospel"
--4:15--"in the beginning of the gospel"

2-Usages:--term denoting a body of faith
--a message
--the sphere of activity bounded by preaching
--NO PRECISE DEFINITION in Philippians
--1 Cor. 15:3-4

3-Two aspects of the gospel
--OBJECTIVE--"obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (2:8)
--SUBJECTIVE--"having a righteousness... which is through faith in Christ" (3:9)
--Former is the "good news"
--Latter is the assurance that man can possess an acceptable righteousness before God

B.-Christian Joy:

1-Outlook in Rome was unpleasant
--Hands in chains
--Body in prison
--Enemies undermining his work
--Sudden execution was a possible outcome for his trial

2-YET Paul says to the Philippians--"Quit being so glum and get into the experience of the joy of the Lord as your habit of life."

3-Paul was anything but pessemistic

4-Paul's rejoicing
--1:3--at every remembrance of the Philippians
--1:18--because Christ was preached, whether sincerely or hypocritically
--2:2--in the growth of humility of his followers

--2:17--in his personal sacrifice for Christ
--4:10--in the gifts and good will of his friends in Christ in Philippi

5-Paul's exhortations to JOY
--2:2--"Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."
--3:1--"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord...."
--4:4--"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."

5/18/66 - Acts 16:11-34

Prayer Mtg - Westbrae - 5/25/66
6/1/66

I.--WORD ABOUT RECEPTION----OF THE GIFT OF GOD (5:11):

A.-A Divine Gift:
1-"God hath given"
2-Gift proffered by God
3-Many are preoccupied with lesser things
4-Many men & women who refuse the gift
5-ILLUS--Two soldiers were talking---one was trying to win his buddy to Christ. They were talking when a Christian officer happened to pass, & heard the unbeliever say, "WELL, I JUST CAN'T FACE THE COST OF BECOMING A CHRISTIAN."
That fear prevents many from accepting the gift of eternal life. The officer's retort was noteworthy: "HAVE YOU EVER FACED THE COST OF NOT BECOMING A CHRISTIAN?"
Many causes; Many excuses for the strange neglect of God's gracious gift.....BUT NO REASONS ! !

B.-A Lasting Gift:
1-"Eternal life"

INTRO:

A.-What Is The IFCA??----FULL Name is...

1-QUESTION:---What is it, & what useful functions served?
ANSWER:--Glad to give clear-cut replies, for information is needed.

2-Beginnings--IFCA had its birth as an association of churches on June 26, 1930, at Cicero Bible Church, Cicero, Il. in Chicago area

3-Reasons--At that time a number of alert, spiritual leaders, principally from the middle west, met for prayer & counsel about matters of spiritual concern. Because they believed the Bible's prophetic warning that the day would come when men would no longer endure sound doctrine, they wereable to forsee the impending disaster of apostasy, which has since engulfed many of the older denominations. They sensed the great need for the establishment of INDEPENDENT, BIBLE churches.

4-Basis--Since this was true, it seemed wise that such independent churches should have fellowship & a vehicle of cooperation with one another.
--The IFCA was formed to provide such fellowship for independent pastors and churches
--Self-policing and self-purging feature of annual renewals means that no one is "caught" in a structure with which he feels out of place
--The ensuing years have abundantly vindicated the foresight of those godly brethren

5-Size--1986 figures
** 1441 individual members (Pastors 662; Evangelists 22 Educators 45; Chaplains 48; Missionaries 140)
** 707 churches are members
** 301 more churches are pastored by IFCA men
** Missions 23; Schools 7; Church Extension ministries 23, Camps, etc.
** 71 Directors of organizations and missions
** Chaplains ++ 28 on active duty
++ 31 on inactive duty
++ 62 % increase 1981 to 1986

6-Giving--$99+ million in total giving (1985)
--21½ million in missions giving
--$1010 per capita giving through local churches

B.-Affiliated Men You Know:

1-Missions--Berean--Joe McCaskey
--United Missionary Fellowship--Bob Jeffcott
--WEF Minsitries--Heijermans, Acker, Jack
--CBE--Sen Wong
--Others--John Edgell & Tom Tucker

2-Schools--A.B.C.--Pipkin, Anderson, Winters, Pinter, Bartlett Walker (2)
--Calvary B.C.--Leslie Madison, President
--Grace Seminary--Ivan French
--GRSBM
--S.B.I.--Cal Probasco, President
--D.T.S.--Walvoord & Evans

3-Others--William McCarrell (Founder)
--M.R. De Haan (An early President)
--Arthur Graves (Founder of Westbrae & N.Cal. Regional)
--Richard Gregory (Limerick Chapel in PA)
--Robert Gray (Westchester Bible Church in IL)
--Mel Efaw (Former pastor, Grace Gospel Ch., Huntington)
--Harold Freeman (NED / Staley Lecturer at A.B.C.1985)

C.-Purposes Of The I.F.C.A.:

1-A Medium of FELLOWSHIP--Personal
--Pastoral
--Congregational

2-A Medium Of INSPIRATION--In the Word
--By example
--By publications
--In methodology
--Through Regionals & National Conven.

3-A Medium Of COOPERATION without compromise !
--Choice of Five Paths Today
(1) NCCC and WCCC ecumenism with control and preponderance of unbelievers
(2) NAE inclusivism with no doctrinal distinctions or discernment---National Assn. of EVERYTHING
(3) ACCC is generally "true" in ist position doctrinally as far as it goes, but it is gathered about the doctrine of separation from apostasy, and "fudges" on many other areas we consider important.
(4) "Independent Independent" with no ties at all to any other churches or individuals. Usually a reaction to having been burned in previous associations, and/or ignorance of alternatives that are wholesome
(5) Affiliation with the IFCA or other similar groups of a more biblical stripe
--Cooperation, fellowship and inspiration we need desperately in our day
--COMPROMISE we do not want.
* --I have chosen the path of IFCA affiliation for its good values, and because it has few drawbacks.

4-ILLUS--As a hunter raised his rifle to shoot, the bear called out: "Can't we talk this over," he proposed, "like two sober human beings?" The hunter lowered his gun. "What is there to talk over?" he asked. "Well, for instance" the bear said as he came closer to the hunter, "What do you want to shoot me for?"

"Simple," grunted the hunter. "I want a fur coat."

"All I want is a good breakfast," smiled the bear. "I'm sure we can get together sensibly on this."

So-----they sat down to work out an agreement. After a while the bear got up----ALL A L O N E !! They had reached a

COMPROMISE !!. The bear had secured his breakfast. And the hunter had on his fur coat.....

(3)

D.-Proposition: We are an Independent Bible Church, but we need to be associated with others of similar doctrine and practice.

I.-THE PRECIDENT FOR THE IFCA: — Biblically

A.-"Fellowship in the gospel": (Phil. 1:5)
1-Def=="Joint participation"; Working together in gospel ministry
2-TEAM ministry has always been a biblical ministry pattern
--No unattached christians
--No uninvolved christians
--No "lone ranger" christians
--See Philippians 1:1
** Ministry team led by Paul
** Reception team in a local church
** Biblically organized with Elders & Deacons
3-"First day until now"--Continuing pattern
** In N. T. days
** Today also !!
--WE NEED ONE ANOTHER !!

B.-Defence and confirmation of the gospel": (Phil. 1:7)
1-Def==Defending, explaining, giving answer
--A speech made in defense of one's faith or belief
--1 Pet. 3:15
--Phil. 1:16 uses the term again
2-"confirmation" ==Confirming. To make firm or established
3-Idea is that Philippian christians stood with Paul in explaining and defending the faith of Biblical christianity, and they did a more effective job together than they could have done separately
4-Jude 3 "contending for the faith"

C.-"Furtherance of the gospel": (Phil. 1:12)
1-Not all things are good in life
** Illnesses
** Accidents
** Job losses
** Deaths, etc.
2-But God works good out of them in the lives of Christians
3-Rom. 8:28
4-Paul's imprisonment has brought about advances in the gospel outreach, not curtailment
--Paul is not free to com, to go & to minister whereever he might choose
--Others have risent the challenge and are now proclaiming the gospel of Christ
--Paul still has a sphere of ministry that reaches into Caesar's palace from his hired house incarceration

D.-Defense of the gospel": (Phil 1:17)
1-Same term as in Phil. 1:7
2-Paul is set in his personal intentions & involvement
3-Christian service takes a SETTLED COMMITMENT from whoever is faithful to the Lord

E.-"Conversation as becometh the gospel": (Phil. 1:27a)
1-Manner of life is to be worthy of the message we preach
2-Ultimate test of our orthodoxy of behavior
--Not our Doctrinal Statement
--But our changed lives
--Honor the Lord Who redeemed us !!

F.-"Striving together for the faith of the gospel": (Phil. 1:27b)
1-Def=="Contending as one man"; LABORING
--Also in Phil. 4:3 of two women who labored with Paul in the ministry
2-Idea of a cooperative effort to serve the Lord better

G.-Summary--There is a clear biblical precedent for this cooperation among Bible believing leaders and churches if it is not at the compromise of truths believed.

II. THE POSITION OF THE IFCA------SPELLED OUT IN ITS NAME:

A.-Organizationally Independent: (Church Polity)

1-SELF-GOVERNING
--Under the leadership of Christ, Who is the HEAD
--Eph. 1:22--"And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church."
--Subject to the leadership of the Spirit
--Acts 15:28--"For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, & to us
--Liberty in matters of church government organization
** Choose own officers
** Choose own pastor
** Choose own missionaries
** Choose own literature
** Set its own budget
** Own its own property
--ABSOLUTE local church autonomy without any interference

2-SELF-SUPPORTING
--No subsidization from headquarters
--Therefore no "outside" allegiances or debts
--No worldly means of financing
** No Bazaars
** No Cake Sales
** No Dances
** No profit-oriented church dinners
--No begging from the world to build buildings or to finance world evangelization
--GRACE-GIVING by born-again christians for various facets of Christian work.

3-SELF-PROPOGATION
--Every believer an immediate sharer of the gospel
--Every unbeliever a mission field of desperate need.

--Acts 1:8--But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."
--MESSAGE is always the gospel of SALVATION
** Not ordinances to keep
** Not church membership to gain
** Not denominational membership to protect

4-Yet, in coooperative fellowship with true believers everywhere
--Rom. 13:8--"Owe no man anything, but to love one another, for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law"
--Independency of a local church or a christian can be over-emphasized !!
*--Remember that in Acts 2:42 fellowship is specifically mentioned as second only to doctrine in importance.

B.-Biblically Fundamental: (Church Position)
1-Orthodox doctrine--In this day of theological confusion of "new" orthodoxy, "new" evangelicalism "new" pentecostalism.
--That which is true is not new, and that which is new is not true.
--Historic essentials are re-affirmed
--One of the strongest & most comprehensive doctrinal statements of any USA fellowship today
--Fundamentals are adhered to & loved !
*--No apology for being "FUNDAMENTALISTS", though many think the term ought to be avoided because it is so clear-cut & up-front in meaning

2-Balanced Practices: United + uniform on basic doctrinal issues
--Cooperation without control from without
--Biblical, New Testament Christianity
--Balanced ministries ** Evangelism
** Bible teaching
** Missions

3-Separatist--From compromise or control
--From liberalism, modernism, neo-orthodoxy, new evangelicalism and Ecumenical evangelism
--Separated UNTO the Lord, as well as separated FROM worldliness
--Obedient to the Scriptures
** 1 Jn. 4:1--"Try them"
** Rom. 16:17--"Mark them" & "Avoid them"
** Tit. 1:13--"Rebuke them sharply"
** 2 Jn. 10--"Receive them not"
** 2 Tim. 3:5--"From such turn away"

4-Good name and testimony of the IFCA is shared by all of its members.

C.-Associated For Cooperation: (Church Program)

Churches of America

1---Organization of LOCAL CHURCHES & Christian workers without any human hierarchy of control of congregations or men
- --Fellowship of congregations, not "A CHURCH"
- --Democratic government locally and among the churches when they cooperate
- --N.T. knows nothing of the concept of a MONARCHIAL BISHOP such as Romanism, Episcopalianism & Methodism have is found in the IFCA
- --Grass roots area divisions of the USA into 40 Regionals adapted to local needs
- *--ILLUS--Western Idaho has just begun a separate Regional group, instead of being part of Inter-Mountain Regional, because they are not Mormon dominated in their area, and so have different needs to address in their local fellowship.

2-Nationally
- --Twelve TRUSTEES elected for rotating 3 year terms
- --One President elected for a non-repeated 3 yr. term
- --National Executive Director to coordinate the movement's work and to minister in Churches on an open-ended term to be renewed annually
- --VOICE editor to edit the magazine & minister among the churches on an open-ended term to be renewed annually
- --Office staff of 3 others
- *--NO SUPERINTENDENTS by any name

3-Church Extension
- --Channel of cooperation to enlarge our numbers
  - ** Enllist existing churches
  - ** Open new churches in needy areas
  - ** Goal of 800 in the 80's
- *--Local church is viewed as the sending agency for all missionaries, both foreign and home areas.

4-Membership
- --For Christian workers, Laymen & Churches
- --Selective
- --On high recommendation only
- --Self-purging because of annual renewal of credentials
- --Harder to get INTO the IFCA than to get out
- --Discipline of disorderly members is done in cooperation with the local churches where they hold membership

5-Freedom
- --To cooperate as locally determined
- --To OPEN or to CLOSE our pulpits
- --To refuse
  - --Programs not true to Christ & the Word
  - --Programs destructive of the local Independent church
  - --Inclusivism of NCCC or NAE or Ecumenical evangelism
  - --Whether of a "far left", "far right" or "middle of the road" level of compromise.

III.-THE PROFIT OF THE IFCA:

A.-Doctrinal Profit:

1-Largely covered above--Yet a sizeable issue
--UNITED on a doctrinal basis

2-HAVEN--For separatists from denominational liberalism
--For separatists from overlordship tyranny
--For young servants of God to spare them the problems & heartaches of unequally yoking themselves to apostate machinery.

3-Strong emphases--Soulwinning evangelism in (program of) local church
--Bible teaching ministry to mature the saints
--Devotion to the Person of Christ
--Missions as our duty & privilege
--Autonomous local church
--Biblical fellowship lines

B.-Local Church Profit:

1-No dictation of policy or practice
2-Yet, ADVICE is available regionally, nationally or both when requested
3-No property control or ownership--ENTIRELY LOCAL
4-Ordination--Suggested standards are available
--NO IFCA ordination by the organization
--Locally examined & local church ordained with a responsibility to that local congregation to remain true to vows.
5-Fellowship and strengthening between & among churches

C.-Relational Profit:

1-Ministerial students have been granted draft exemption to study for the ministry in years past
2-Governmental recognition of Pastoral or Missionary status of IFCA affiliated men for Civil Defense or foreign government relationships
3-Internal Revenue Service recognition
--Recognition as a bonifide local church for donation deductability
** Either by NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, or
** Or by local church seeking & paying for its own legal work---more than $1,000 each & at least 6 months time elapses.
** IFCA churches are now recognized by the IRS immediately upon membership whether they are "old" churches or newly formed ones.
** "Independent Independents" must pass the expensive & time-consuming process individually to gain this recognition
--In CANADA the Roman Catholics & WCCC has succeded in arranging it so no status of recognition can be obtained except through a national body
--Indications are that such a move is now being made in the USA also to "freeze out" as many biblical churches as possible

4-Congressional recognition & action on RELIGIOUS LEGISLATION
5-Preservation of RADIO TIME accessability
--In spite of NCCC lobbying to control all gospel broadcasting
--In face of FCC rulings in favor of NCCC monopoly over this
6-Breaking of COMITY AGREEMENTS sponsored by NCCC & NAE
--New housing areas
--Old established areas
--Exclusion of fundamental works is a growing menace
7-CHAPLAINCY representation
--Unaffiliated churches get no representation for their constituencies to arrage "missionaries to the military"
--Top-notch record of IFCA chaplains for over 50 years
--Presently greatly oversubscribed because we have men who have a message & a ministry & have done a good job
** 28 on active duty in 1986
** 31 on inactive duty in 1986
--Sufficient reason for theexistence of the IFCA if there were no other reason
--Continually an area for prayer to "Keep the doors open"

D.-Informational Profit:

1-Literature Provided--VOICE magazine
--Missions & Schools composite
--Doctrinal statements
--Pamphlets ** Printed by IFCA
** Recommended by IFCA
--Regional Newsletters
2-Annual Directory--Men, churches, schools, camps & missions
--Helps vacationers
--Help to relocating families
--Help to outside inquirers for a sound church
--Help to students & missionaries
3-Documentary evidence--Questionable men
--Answers concerning missions
--Position of schools & organizations
4-Information to churches & pastors on HOW TO BECOME INDEPENDENTS, for many do not know there is a viable alernative to old-line denominations.

E.-Cooperational Profit:

1-Someone said: "Dinosaurs were big & powerful, but they did not believe in teamwork. Ants did believe in teamwork. We ought to notice which has survived."
2-HELP--To pastorless churches
--To churchless pastors
--To raise a united voice against apostasy & compromise
3-Cooperative action where no one church could succeed alone:
--Camps
--Youth Rallies
--Training Institutes for leaders & laymen
--Bible Schools in strategic locations
--Home & foreign missions
--Missionary conferences (Round Robins, etc.)

--Womens Conferences
--Mens Conferences

4-INDEPENDENT CHURCHES are today the vehicle for the support of 85% of the FAITH MISSIONS movement.

5-Cooperation in opening the door of ministry to representatives of Biblical training schools & the "Right Kind" of missionaries

6-Starting new churches in the USA----Over 200 in past 6 yrs

F.-Fellowship & Challenge Profit:

1-Encouragement thru brethren & churches of like precious faith standing together

2-Challenge of pastors & people as we participate in cooperative ventures & ministries

3-Makes preachers G L A D for the ministries they have from the Lord when they see what others face in theirs

4-Gleaning suggestions & methods from others which enhance & enrich our labors for the Lord

5-Newsletters from Regional & other areas which show what is being done elsewhere----and it stirs us to trust God for bigger things where we are

IV.-THE PROVISION FOR THE IFCA:

A.-Provision By Individual Members:

1-Benefit brings RESPONSIBILITY

2-Responsability brings ACCOUNTABILITY

3-Pastors//Missionaries//Educators//Organization leaders//Laymen--Participation ** In Regional activities & mtgs.
** In National conventions
--Enlistment** Others as members (Over 50 by PCR)
** New churches to join
** Churches pastored by IFCA men to join the ranks.
--SELL our own churches on the value of belonging as a church

B.-Provision By Local Churches:

1-Prayer--For missions
--For church extension
--For Chaplains
--For Training Schools
--For sister churches
--For brethren with trials & problems

2-Literature--VOICE magazine
--Brochures & leaflets

3-Liberty for pastor to cooperate, attend & serve
--Camp Committee
--Bible Church Crusade
--Pastors' Conference
--Family Conference
--Regional officer
--NEC member

PCR over the years

4-Financers--Annual gift for membership
--Monthly gift for support of program & progress
--Support church planting & missions in harmony with what we stand for indoctrine & practice
--Send pastor to Regionals & National Convention
--Send delegates from church to Regional & National

5-Thoroughly knowledgeable men & women in our local churches

C.-Provision By Cooperative Action:

1-J O I N it.....and become actively involved
2-Recruit others to join also
3-Talk of it & encourage others by your level of cooperation with sister churches
4-Cooperate with others--Schools
--Camps
--Missionary Conference
--Bible Conference
--Church Extension

CONCLUSION:

A.-Negative Values:

1-No outside ownership of property of the congregation
2-No outside control of local church decisions
3-No outside imposition of certain men as pastor upon an unwilling local church
4-Truly an association of INDEPENDENT men and churches

B.-Positive Values:

1-Doctrinal purity
2-Local church government--AUTONOMOUS
3-Cooperation without compromise
4-Biblical fellowship
5-Information availability
6-Challenge
7-Governmental relationship
8-Someone has suggested that the initials I.F.C.A also can well signify: "I Find Christ Adequate"

C.-Personal Involvement:

1-Surely that is the ultimate purpose of all of our hearts for we who are redeemed----Only to GLORIFY CHRIST !! I am many times reminded of the closing words of the Declaration of Independence as characteristic of the men and the movement which have come to mean so much to me:

"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honor."

THESE SIGNED FOR YOU--Our National Declaration of Independence
--Our Spiritual Declaration of Interdependence

Will you today SIGN FOR YOURSELF ??
We are Independent, but need to NOT BE ISOLATED.

Are you ??

(1) Local Church Membership
--Loyal in attendance
-= Involved in some area of service
--Faithful in giving

(2) Fellowship of likeminded churches
** July 8 at OKBC for WV
** Aug. 9 in Western PA

(3) What about YOU ??

6/13/65--Westbrae	"I Will Praise Him"	24
7/6/86--OKBC	"The Banner Of The Cross"	182
	"Am I A Soldier?"	94

Also see message under Acts 15:1-3
"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE".

INTRO:

A.-Discerning Men:

1-Book of KINGS--History from Man's viewpoint
2-Book of CHRONICLES--History from God's viewpoint
3-1 Chron. 12 describes the making of David king
4-JEWEL VERSE--12:32--"And the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do..."
--men
--men of understanding of the times
--with knowledge
--of what Israel ought to do
5-NEED DISCERNMENT today

B.-Distinguishing Differences:

1-Phs. 1:9-10
2-Time for this is "Till the day of Christ"
3-Purpose for this is "that ye may be sincere(pure) & without offence"
4-What differences to distinguish?
--Saved from lost
--Spiritual from carnal
--Separated from entangled
--Pure from tainted
--God's program of the ages
--AUGUSTINE--"Distinguish the ages, and the Scriptures harmonize"
5-1 Cor. 10:32--"Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God"
6-ILLUS---P.C.R. at DTS---Seminary and Presbyterians might both be wrong on matters of prophecy, but they could not both be right.

C.-Areas That Need Distinguishing?

1-God's Salvation
2-God's People
3-God's Worship

I.-GOD'S SALVATION:

A.-By Blood Sacrifice:

1-Lamb slain in the Garden
2-Abel' & Cain in Gen. 4
3-Abram at his altar
4-Lev. 17:11--"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you pon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul."
5-Same truth in N.T.--Eph. 1:7--"In whom we have redemption thru His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."
--Col. 1:14--"In whom we have redemption thru His blood, even the forgiveness of sins."
--Heb. 9:22

--Jn. 1:29
--Rom. 5:8-9--"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more,then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

6-Christ is the fulfillment of this O.T. "picture"

B.-By Faith Exercised:

1-Adam & Eve received the skins
2-Abel brought the sacrifice
3-Abram offered his son
4-Nation Israel brought the sacrifices...all in FAITH
5-Same truth in N. T.--Rom. 10:12-13--"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
--Ep. 3:17--"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;.."
--Heb. 11---esp. 11:6--"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

C.-By Holiness Experienced:

1-Israel was given--separate land
--dietary laws
--prohibitions on mixed marriage
--revealed worship Provisions
2-Blessing experienced when obeyed
3-Spiritual decline was obvious when ignored
4-SEPARATION EXPECTED
5-Violated--Balaam; "If you can't curse them, then CORRUPT them
--Joshua; Gibeonites & compromise
--Saul; Agag of the Amalekites
--Solomon--Wives, horses & worship
6-Same truth in N. T.
--1 Cor. 6:19-20--"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's"
--1 Pet. 1:13-16--"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, 'Be ye holy; for I am holy'."
--Heb. 12:14--"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"

7-Recap--Without Blood---NO SALVATION — Heb 9:22
--Without Faith---NO PLEASURE — Heb. 11:6
--Without Holiness--NO FELLOWSHIP— Heb 12:14

D.-Anticipation Vs. Retrospection:
1-O. T. Saints--anticipated their salvation
--saved "on credit" expecting sin to be paid for by the coming Messiah
2-N. T. Saints--Salvation already accomplished
--Salvation is "bought & paid for"
--We look back upon it in retrospect
3-But remember.....Salvation is ALL OF GRACE !!!
4-Eph. 2:8-9--"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast."
5-No "TWO WAYS" of salvation under different dispensations
6-In salvation, there is only a distinguishing between the true--on the basis of Christ's atoning work--and the false --on any other ground.

II.-GOD'S PEOPLE:

A.-Their Make-Up:
1-In Israel--Abram was first "JEW" by God's choice
--Background as a demon-worshipping Gentile
--Nation made from Abram & his descendants
--Thus placed in a POSITION OF PRIVILEGE
--Still, they had to personally be saved
--Rom. 2:28-29--"For he is not a Jew which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."
--Salvation was "of the Jews"
--Gentiles had to become proselytes to Judaism
--BY PHYSICAL BIRTH
2-In Church
--BY SPIRITUAL BIRTH
--Began with Jews (Acts 2--from 15 diff. language areas)
--Enlarged to "mongrels"--Acts 8
--Enlarged to Gentiles----Acts 8 & 10
--Nowpredominantly Gentile due to Jewish hardness of heart

B.-Their 'Badge' Of Belonging:
1-Israel--Circumcision
--Administered the 8th day after birth
--Administered BEFORE personal faith
--Showed "belonging" to the nation of Israel, not to the "spiritual seed" of Abraham
--Administered only to males
2-Church
--Baptism==IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST
--Commanded by Christ
--Symbol of Spirit Baptism
--Testimony of salvation forgiveness
--Practiced by early church on men & women both

--NEVER on infants
--NEVER on unsaved
--ALWAYS after trust in Christ as personal Savior

3-This is a major difference between the 2 peoples of God
--Israel & the Church

C.-Their Blessings:

1-Israel--Riches on earth were proof of God's favor
--Famines & pestilences were evidences of Divine disfavor
--Prov. 3:9-10--"Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."
--NOT promised to the church

2-Church--Promised TRIBULATIONS
--Mk. 10:29-30
--Jn. 15:18-21
16:1-4
16:33
--Rom. 5:3-5--"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience hope: and hope maketh not ashamed."
--Jas. 1:2
--What purpose this---ROM. 8:28-29

D.-Their Promises:

1-Israel--7 of them**A nation forever
A land forever
A king forever
A Throne forever
A kingdom forever (Theocratic with Immanuel present)
A new covenant
Abiding blessings
--Lk. 1:31-33--"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."
--Related to the REVELATION OF CHRIST

2-Church---Heaven our home
--Reward our portion
--Fellowship our joy
--Face to face enjoyment of the Savior
--Service in His presence
--Related to the RAPTURE WITH CHRIST

E.-Their Standard of Life:

1-Israel--LAW
--Conditional blessings upon conditional obedience
--Law was a UNIT--248 positive commands
--365 negative commands
--Jas. 2:10--"For whosoever shall

keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

--No enablement granted to perform it
--Injudicious acceptance of LAW
--Ex. 19:7-8--"And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD."
--Legal and restrictive to the core
--Standard of life for Jewish believer; not a method of justification before God.
--Jn. 1:17--"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

2-Church----"Grace" is our rule of life
--Related to the coming of Christ
--NOT under law
**Rom. 6:14--"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."
**Rom. 10:4--"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth"
**Gal. 5:18--"But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law."
--What is "GRACE"??--Not lawlessness (1 Cor. 9:21
--but "in-lawed to Christ"
**Gal. 6:2--"Bear ye one another's burdens, & so fulfill the law of Christ."
**Jas. 1:25
2:8
2:12
**Revealed in N.T
--We, of the church, are not in a LEGAL relationship to Christ, but in a GRACIOUS relationship

F.-Their Program:
1-Israel--Train their own Young People
--Proselyte the Gentiles
--BUT, they never had much of a missionary program
2-Church--Evangelize the world
--Acts 1:8
--Every believer involvement as WITNESSES
--NOT to bring the world to Christ
--BUT to bring Christ to the world

III.-GOD'S WORSHIP:

A.-The Place:
1-In Israel--Jerusalem was the locale
--Holy hill of Zion
--Related to the Tabernacle or Temple as the cite of worship

2-In Church--Localized churches
--Seen in N. T. being addressed to local churches
--Seen in record of Acts as experience of the churc
--Believers to assemble locally
--Heb. 10:25
--Related to a NEW ALTAR
--Heb. 13:10-14
--That altar is the CROSS OF CHRIST
--"In the Cross of Christ I glory
Towering o'er the wrecks of time"
--Remember, we worship the Christ of God, who died for us on the cruel cross

B.-The Sacrifices:
1-In Israel--CONTINUAL sacrifices
--Hundreds & thousands of offerings
--Bloody deaths to keep before Israel the need for cleansing by blood, & the COST of forgiveness
--Burnt, Sin, Trespass & Peace offerings
--Heb. 10:1-4
2-Church--SINGLE sacrifice
--Heb. 10:10-14
--Sufficiency seen
--Superlative character of Christ's death because of WHO He was and is
--Heb. 9:26
--Jn. 19:30

C.-The Day:
1-Israel--Sabbath or 7th day
--Work all week & then REST
--Legal provisions against any work
--SIGN of Israel's relationship to God
--Never given to Gentiles or to the Church
2-Church--Lord's Day or 1st day of the week
--NOT a "Christian Sabbath"; That's an anomoly
--Worship and then go out to work
--Graciously given provision
--Ceaseless activity expected on Lord's Day, not REST, as on the Sabbath
--The whole day is the Lord's

D.-The Priesthood:
1-Israel--Israel HAD a Priesthood; the Church IS a Priesthood
--Aaronic Priesthood (H.P.)
**Aaron's descendants
**Sinners who offered for selves & who then offered for the people
**Chosen by God
**Not allowed to continue by reason of DEATH
--Essential feature of worship
**Prophet speaks to man for God
**Priest speaks to God for man

2-Church--Melchizedek Priesthood
**Christ chosen by God
**Priesthood began after death
**Intransmissible priesthood
**High Priest who understands us as the God-Man
--Open Access now
**Vail is rent
**Heb. 10:19-22
**Rom. 5:1-2
--EVERY believer is now a Believer-Priest in his own behalf to approach God directly
**No need of Aaronic priesthood
**No need of R. C. priesthood
**No need of R. C. saints or Mary
**DIRECT ACCESS for ourselves
** Basic truth recovered in Protestant Ref.

B.-The Memorial:
1-Israel--Passover
--Once a year observance
--Lamb, unleavened bread, unfermented grape juice
--Remembrance of deliverance from bondage & death in Egypt
2-Church--The Lord's Table
--"As oft as ye eat"--no set pattern of time frequency
--Bread--His BODY given for me
--Cup--His BLOOD shed for me
--Remembrance of deliverance from sin & death when the JUST ONE died for me
--Act of worship, adoration & praise

CONCLUSION: A.-Discernment:
1-God's salvation--Only ONE way
--Acts 4:12
--Jn. 1:12
2-God's people--Israel in the past
--Church in the present
3-God's Worship--Forms & ceremonies in past
--Intimacy in the church at present
4-Do you discern
--that this is for you?
--that this is REAL JOY
5-Sing, "If You Want Joy"

If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy, (Repeat)
Let Jesus come into your heart
Your sins He'll wash away,
Your night He'll turn to day,
Your life, He'll make it over anew.
If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy,
Let Jesus come into your heart.

8/29/65 Pentecostal Power
My Savior
Westbrae--9/12/65
Are You Washed In The Blood
If You Want Joy
God Be With You

"HEAVEN RECEIVED HIM UP" Phs. 2:9-11; Read Ps. 24:1-10; Eph. 1:20-21

(1)

INTRO: **A.-His Coming Down:**

1-DeWitt Talmage once described the scene in heaven:

"The astonished angels said to Christ: 'Shall ten thousand of us weave our wings together to make a fit chariot for Thee to ride upon in Thy descent to earth?' This offer Christ rejected with a wave of His hand.

"Shall we bring together all the clouds of heaven & make a fit throne for Thee to sit upon?' But this offer Christ also refused, saying: 'NO, I cannot go in such a way.'

"Then they asked if they might not make Him a staircase of their wings and so conduct Him to earth that all might see and adore Him. For the thrid time Messiah refused.

"Then He commanded them: 'Take off these royal robes of light.' The angels reluctantly obeyed. Then He started ALONE on His descent to earth without a single attendant to herald His coming. The amazed angel host crowded on heaven's vast balcony to watch Him descend, and as they gazed after Him, they TALKED SO LOUDLY about His wonderful condescension and love for men that the Shepherds of Bethlehem overheard their amazement and praise."

2-That's a fanciful description

3-But it is in the spirit of the "COMING DOWN GRACE" o our Savior-
- Who is God the Son
- Who did not grasp to hold onto His appearance of equality with the Father
- Who emptied Himself
- Who took the form of a Servant
- Who was found in fashion as a Man

4-Truly, when Jesus was born, "HEAVEN CAME DOWN"

B.-His Reception On Earth:

1-John 1:9-11

"That was the True Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not."

2-Jesus Christ--
- True (genuine) Light to all men
- Maker of men as their CREATOR
- The WORLD did not know Him
- Even ISRAEL--"His own"--received Him not!!!
  - ** True, some did accept Him
  - ** But the leaders caused the crowds to cry: "CRUCIFY HIM; CRUCIFY HIM"
  - ** Phs. 2:8

"And being found in fashion of a man, He humbled Himself + became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

** ILLUS--Years ago the QUEEN OF ENGLAND liked to take walks near her castle in Scotland. She liked to dress like an ordinary woman and walk alone--with a servant following some distance behind her.

One day, when the queen was walking alone, with her servant trailing her, she came to a flock of sheep herded by a shepherd boy. The boy shouted: "GET OUT OF THE WAY, YOU STUPID WOMAN!"

The queen smiled and stepped to one side until the

sheep had passed. Then she continued on her way. In a few moments the servant came along. HE TOLD the shepherd boy that the QUEEN had just passed by.

"Oh," said the boy, "I did not know that she was the Queen. She did not look like a Queen to me."

3-Jesus, the Son of God, laid aside His glory and came to earth to be our Savior. Many did not know that He was the Son of God. He came INCOGNITO

4-There was then and there is now a REMNANT who believe

5-John 1:11-13

REMNANT

C.-His Reception In Heaven:

1-Men are Satanically blinded so as not to believe

2-BUT GOD KNOWS His Son.....So how does the Father receive Jesus Christ, His Son????

--Phil. 2:9-11
--Psalm 24:7-10

Read both

3-Our Message: I.-EXALTED By The Father (Phs. 2:9)
II.-HONORED By The Creation (Phs. 2:10)
III.-CONFESSED By All Men (Phs. 2:11)

4-Prop: We need to know how heaven views Jesus Christ, and submit our beliefs to God's authority

I.-EXALTED BY THE FATHER----(Phs. 2:9):

A.-Highest Place: "Wherefore, God hath highly exalted Him..."

1-2:9a

2-"Wherefore"--Connects 2:9-11 with 2:5-8
--Exaltation is because of Christ's humiliation

3-"God"--This is done by the omnipotent hand & power of the Father
--Answer of Christ's prayer
--John 17:5--"And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."
--Divine recognition of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary being satisfactory in the Father's estimation

4-"Highly Exalted Him"--"To raise to supreme majesty"; "supremely exalted"
--Used only here in the N.T. & is reserved for the description of the Father's hono for the Son
--Jesus has been given the HIGHEST PLACE in heaven

5-What is involved in this "highly exalted" position?
--Step one---Resurrection from the grave
--Step two---Ascension to heaven
--Step three---Enthronement beside the Father
--Step four---Present session as Mediator, Advocate, & Intercessor as our great High Priest
--Indeed, "God also hath highly exalted Him"

B.-Highest Name:

1-2:9b "...and given Him a Name, which is above every Name"

2-Word "GIVEN"=="Freely bestowed" or "Graciously given"
--Indicates a bestowal out of appreciation for Christ's cross-work of redemption for man

3-"A NAME"=="THE Name" (definite article is used)
--Common Hebrew way of denoting rank, office and dignity
--Because He now entered heaven as the GOD/MAN forever
--Rev. 19:11-13--"And I saw heaven opened, & behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, & in righteousness He doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, & on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood and His name is called The Word of God."
--We don't know what this "NEW NAME" is, but it is certainly one of majesty & supremacy, for it is ....

4-"Above every name"--That's hard to fathom for me
--Don't know if it is a Name above what He had before the incarnation, but it would appear to be so
--Now is added the new ingredient to creature praise:
** Before because of creation
** Now also because of redemption

5-WHAT HONOR this is from God the Father---beyond our feeble powers of comprehension !!

C.-Reasons For This Exaltation:

1-Condescension of Christ-------Phs. 2:7
2-Humiliation of Christ--------Phs. 2:8
3-Exemplification by the Savior of His own maxim: "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted."
4-John 17:4--"I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do."

II.-HONORED BY THE CREATION-------(Phs. 2:10):

A.-Unlimited Homage:

"That at the Name of Jesus every Knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth."

1-2:10

2-This universal "bowing the knee" is not yet seen, but it will be--
--Recognition by creation of the Father's exaltation of the Son
--Totality of possible spheres will give homage
--Acknowledgement that He has ALL POWER
** Mt. 28:18--"And Jesus came and spake unto them saying: All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth."
** Jn. 5:27--"And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man."
--Accountability to Jesus Christ will be UNIVERSAL

3-**EVERY KNEE BOWS:**
--Of things in heaven; Saints & Angels **ABOVE**
--Of things in the earth; Nature & Men with the curse lifted **AROUND** them
--And things under the earth; Demons and INFERNAL POWERS and all the Lost **BELOW**
--**What a day** that will be! !!

4-**All creation will honor the Son:**
--**John 5:22-23**--"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son, honoureth not the Father which hath sent Him.
--**In that day**---THE MILLENNIUM--the Savior will receive the homage due Him, but which is not yet rendered Him in this unbelieving world

B.-Limited Reconciliation:

1-Our passage does **not deal** with the subject of **RECONCILLIATION**, but it needs to be dealt with in contrast to this universal homage---
-Reconcilliation is **limited**
-Homage will be **universal**; **UNLIMITED**

2-**Col. 1:20**--"And, having made peace through the blood of His Cross, by Him **to reconcile** all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things **in earth** or things **in heaven**."

3-**What is reconcilliation ???**
--**Redemption** is the SINWARD aspect of the Cross
--**PROPITIATION** is the Godward aspect of the Cross
--**Reconcilliation** is the **MANWARD** aspect of the Cross

4-Note the **limitations** on reconcilliation:
--All things in earth (1)
--All things in heaven (2)
To change thoroughly from enmity to friendship
--**BUT nothing** said about "**those under** the earth"
--Reconcilliation applies to a provision for those already **IN HEAVEN** as a fulfillment of O.T. types and promises
--Reconcilliation applies to a provision **for ALL** LIVING & yet-to-live mankind
NB → --**HOWEVER**, reconcilliation **cannot reach** to those who've **gone out** of this life unsaved.
--For them it is forever **TOO LATE** !!
--**Heb. 9:27**

5-So, the contrast between **reconcilliation**, which is **LIMITED**, and **Homage**, which is UNIVERSAL must be accounted for.
-Reconcilliation is in provision **for salvation** while alive on earth
-Homage is in **recognition** of Christ's position of honor **by both** the redeemed and the lost

III.-CONFESSED BY MEN----(Phs. 2:11):

A.-Universal Acknowledgement:

"And that every Tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."

1-**2:11**
2-PUBLIC DECLARATION **by every person:**
--"JESUS Christ is LORD"
--"**Lord**" is the **O.T. Jehovah**
--So used in the **N.T.**

Confession is a PUBLIC DECLARATION

** Acts 2:36--"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both to be Lord and Christ." (5)

** Rom. 10:9--"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

--So He is "God manifest in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3:16)

3-POEM: "The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now.
A royal diadem adorns the mighty Victor's brow"

4-Ultimately--All will bow in acknowledgement of WHO & WHAT Messiah Jesus is.

* --But not every one will be saved forever

--ILLUS--Mt. 27:3-4a--"Then Judas, which had betrayed Him, when he saw that He was condemned, repented himself & brought again the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests & elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood."

5-A.J.Hodge's Hymn: (#191) "Have You Counted The Cost?"

"There's a line that is drawn by rejecting our Lord,
Where the call of His Spirit is lost,
And you hurry along with the pleasure-mad throng.
Have you counted, have you counted the cost?
Have you counted the cost
If your soul should be lost,
Tho' you gain the whole world for your own?
Even now it may be that the line you have crossed.
Have you counted, have you counted the cost?"

B.-Ultimate Glorification:

1-Worldwide---yeah, universe-wide--doxology to the ascended and glorified Christ

2-Rev. 5:13--"And EVERY CREATURE which is in heaven, and on the earth, and in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."

3-"To the glory of God the Father" (2:11c)

="Resulting in the glory of the Father"

--Acknowledging of Christ's glory has the ultimate result of glory to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24-28)

4-CENTER of all the purposes of God

--Not soteriocentric, as many seem to think

--But gloriocentric, as the Bible teaches

--Ps. 19:1--"The heavens declare the glory of God..."

--Eph. 1:6, 12, 14--"To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved...That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ....Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory."

--That means we must not have the view: "EVANGELISM IS EVERYTHING", but rather "Glory to God by obedience to His Word" is first, last and always! This controls what means we use to gain even a commendable goal, like evangelism.

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Resume:

1-Exaltation of the Messiah by the Father (2:9)
2-Adoration of the Messiah by the creation (2:10)
3-Confession of the Messiah by all mankind (2:11)
4-ILLUS-There is a legend of an Irish King who disguised himself and went into the banquet hall of one of his barons. He was escorted to a lowly place among the throng who sat at the feast. The brilliance of his conversation and the nobility of his manner soon attracted the attention of someone with sufficient authority to escort him to a higher table. The same thing occurred once more, and soon he was seated among the nobles of the realm. After a display of great wisdom, one of the lords spoke out and said: "In truth, Sir, you speak like a KING. If you are not a king you deserve to be."

Then the king removed his disguise and took his rightful place among his subjects.

When our Lord Jesus Christ came from heaven's glory, His subjects were so blinded by their own darkness of heart that they were not willing to stoop before Him. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords was there, but they received Him not, even though He stated over and over again that HE WAS THE ETERNAL GOD come down to redeem them."

B.-The Reaction:

1-POEM-"What will you do with Jesus?
Neutral you cannot be.
Someday your heart will be asking,
'What will HE DO with me?'"

2-Now is the day of salvation. It's the only day you can be sure of.

3-ILLUS-While walking along the shores of his prison-house on the rock island of St. Helena, NAPOLEON remarked to Count Monotholon: 200 Yrs. ago

"Across the chasm of 1800 years, Jesus Christ makes a difficult demand, which is, beyond all others, difficult to satisfy. He asks for that which a philosopher may often seek in vain at the hands of his friends; or father of his children, or a bride of her spouse; or a man of his brother.

"HE ASKS FOR THE HUMAN HEART. HE WILL HAVE IT ENTIRELY FOR HIMSELF. He asks it unconditionally, & forthwith this demand is granted. In defiance of time & space, the soul of man, with all its powers & facilities, becomes an annexation to the empire of Christ. All, who believe on Him, experience that remarkable supernatural love for Him.

"This phenomenon is unaccountable--it is altogether

beyond the reach of man's creative power. **Time**, the great destroyer, is **powerless** to extinguish this sacred flame; time can neither **exhaust** its strength, nor put a **limit** to its range. This it is, which **proves** to me quite convincingly the **DEITY** OF JESUS CHRIST.

7

4-**Heaven** has "**RECEIVED HIM UP**"

5-**Have you** "RECEIVED HIM **IN**" to your heart ??

--Today you may do so

--Tomorrow may be **too late**

* Because you may not be able on the morrow,
* Or because the Holy Spirit may not be tugging at your heartstrings and wooing your spirit then, as He is now..

--**Will you**, **TODAY**, **believe** the gospel and **receive** the gift of Eternal Life by taking Jesus Christ as Your Own Savior ??

6-**PROPOSITION** restated:

We need to know how heaven views Jesus Christ, and then submit our beliefs to God's authority!

7- Heaven ALSO serves Jesus Christ willingly

- Do you ?
- Will you begin TODAY?

1

Westbrae--12/26/71--#93 - "Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed?" 110

Calloway Heights - 7/2/78 282 - "Crown Him With Many Crowns" 62

Pettus Bapt. Ch. 7/16/78

Northwest Bible Ch - 7/30/78 237 - All Hail The Power 42 2 3

O.K.B.C. - 10/18/87 "May The Mind Of Christ, My Savior" 333

New England IFCA Regional 3/15/88

Caldwell, OH. - Wayne Smith - 3/12/89

Charlestown Harbour B.C., S.C. 3/19/89

Taupo, NZ - 6/14/92

10/27/97 - Waterman Bible Church (Il)

3/9/98 - Heritage Bapt. Ch - Bella Vista, ARK

10/21/01 - Valley Chapel Com. Ch - OH,

3/12/06 - Salina Bible Ch. - PA

"WHEN HEAVEN CAME DOWN": Phil. 2:5-8; 2 Cor. 8:9 (1)
or Reading Responsively Lk. 2:1-20
"FROM RICHES TO RAGS"

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."

INTRO: **A.-From Riches To Rags:**

1-Read 2 Cor. 8:9

2-Someone has said: "The **worst torments** of **poverty** are reserved for those who have been reduced to it after having known **great wealth**."

3-Perhaps that's what makes the coming into flesh of the Lord Jesus **so difficult** for us to "**enter into**", for we barely understand what He left behind in glory

4-Men class **wealth** in **3 categories**: John Paul Getty, Shah of Iran

Wealth of--**POSSESSIONS** (Rockefellers, Onassis; H. Hughes)
Wealth of--**POWER** (Gen. Eisenhower, President of USA, etc.)
Wealth of--**HONOR** (Nobel prize winners

--In all of these Jesus Christ was **rich** beyond compare...

* --**AND** He was also **rich in HOLINESS**.

5-But He came from **Riches to Rags** for us

6-**Rephrasing** Charles Wesley's hymn:

"He emptied Himself of all but love"
to
"He emptied Himself BECAUSE OF LOVE"

B.-Our Christmas Message: (Current) — From History To Experience

1-We've read the **historical** account

2-Today let's look at it from a different perspective------a **doctrinal** account

--Phs. 2:5-8--"When Heaven Came Down" (**Today**)
--Phs. 2:9-11--"Heaven Received Him Up" (Next)

3-OUTLINE:

I.-The DESCRIPTION Of Christ-------2:6
II.-The CONDESCENSION Of Christ-----2:7
III.-The HUMILIATION Of Christ-------2;8
IV.-The EXHORTATION Concerning Christ---2:5

4-ILLUS--Years ago in Ethiopia Dr. Thomas **Lambie**, a Medical Missionary, **wished to buy land for mission stations**, but could not because Ethiopian law allowed **no sale** of **property to a foreigner**. So Dr. Lambie, **out of love** for Ethiopia, **gave up** his American **citizenship** and **became an Ethiopian citizen** in order to buy properties needed in his work.

Later the Italian invasion of Ethiopia sent Dr. Lambie back to America, but he **left behind** him about **250** Christians. During the war a great revival produced many more Christians, so that **by 1943** they numbered **15,000**.

This man who **gave up so much** to become an Ethiopian in order to bring the gospel to them must have known great joy in that reunion with them. Meantime the **Congress** of the U.S.A. had passed **a special bill restoring** to him his **American Citizenship**.

PROP **OUR LORD renounced** His heavenly home to be a man among men in this world of sin, so we might share heaven with Him. Therefore, we need to Know Him well!

Phs 2 - WHEN LOVE CAME DOWN

Bulletin Board Picture

I.-THE DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST----(2:6):

A.-He Is God:

"Who, being in the form of God..." — "IS"

1-2:6a-----I say it **PRESENT** tense, not just PAST

2-"**The form**"--**Not** a reference to **physical shape** or stature
--John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time: the only-begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.
--But a philosophical term of the Greeks
==**"the perfect & appropriate expression of the perfect essence of His inward nature"** (Wuest, P.62
==**"NATURE"**
--ILLUS--I went to a tennis match yesterday. baseball game
The winning player's "form" was excellent."
I would mean by that, that the **outward expression** he gave of his **inward ability to play** tennis, was excellent.

3-"**Of God**"--**NO ARTICLE**, so a ref. to the **DIVINE ESSENCE**
=="Who was **in nature** such a one as God really is."
--John 1:1--"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"
--Col. 1:15--"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature."
--Heb. 1:1-3

4-In Jesus' **pre-incarnate** state HE **WAS GOD**. However, the word "being" indicates that our Lord's possession of the Divine essence **did not cease** to be a fact when He came in human form to earth

5-Expressed in Christ's prayer of John 17:5--"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

B.-He Is Equal With God:

1-2:6b — "...thought it not robbery to be equal with God."

2-"**Equal** With God"--That's what Jesus Christ **was** and **IS**!
--**Second member** of the blessed Trinity
--**Same essence**, honor and power
--**No "one-up-manship"** in the Godhead
--John 10:30--"I and My Father are one."

!!!!

3-"**Thought it not robbery**"
--Can mean "**a thing** to be **grasped after**," but the context is talking about CONDESCENSION, so that doesn't fit
--Can also mean "**a treasure** to be **clutched** and **retained** at all costs," which fits
--**WHY NOT ??**
--Because **love** is always **sacrificial** !!
--He did **not struggle** to maintain the evidence of His equality with the Father, for that would have meant glory for Him at the expense of **NO SALVATION** for us!

4-He **voluntarily relinquished** the expression of deity and equality

5-But neither His **nature** nor His **relations** were changed.
--He **is God**
--**He is equal** with God !
--Jowett--"A **small Savior** invariably means a **cheap redemption**." (P. 71)...and you won't find that kind presented in the New Testament.

II.-THE CONDESCENSION OF CHRIST——-(2:7):

A.-His Emptying:

1-2:7a-- But made Himself of no reputation"=="But emptied Himself."

2-What does this "EMPTYING" mean?

--Our Lord **waived His rights** to that expression which was His Nature & His right

--Point is in His **VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION**

--Considered His equality with the Father not a treasure to be held onto when the purpose of God was to provide "coming down grace"

--**UNSELFISH CONDESCENSION**

--This He did **willingly** & **freely** & for the great need of sinners to have a Savior

3-**Jowett**--"Had our Lord approached us in the **awful attire** of **heavenly splendour** He would never have got near us. Our fear would have closed our doors, and we should never have dared to ask Him to 'abide with us', & to eat with us at a common board. His very **glory** would have been **His bar**. But **HE EMPTIED HIMSELF**....He **stripped Himself of the glories of heaven** in order that He might **not terrify** & **paralyse** the men on earth whom He came to save." (P. 72)

4-**OF WHAT** did Christ "**empty Himself**"????

--**Not** of His **deity**, for He still is God

--**Not** of any of His **attributes**, for if Christ lost any of His divine attributes, He would **cease** to be God, since God is the sum of all His attributes

--And we know that Jesus **possessed** and **exercised these attributes** of deity according to the N.T.

--Wuest--"...when we come to consider the fact that our Lord laid aside something, we will see that it was **not** the **POSSESSION**, but the **EXPRESSION** of divine essence." (P. 64)

5-Therefore-------He gave up the **INDEPENDENT EXERCISE** of His Divine attributes during His earthly life.

6-That's "**coming down**", but there is **MORE**.!.....

B.-His Expressions:

μορφὴν

1-"...and took upon Him the **form** of a **SERVANT**..." (2:7b)

--δουλος ="Bondslave"

--Paul uses this term of himself in Phs. 1:1

"Paul + Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ..."

--So also is this concept in relation to our Savior

--Mt. 20:28--"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but **to minister**, and to give His life a ransom for many."

--**SERVITUDE**, rather than glory, becomes **the "usual" expression** of Jesus Christ during the incarnation

--Exceptional form of Christ's expression was **seen** only **twice** when His deity shines through undiminished **

At Transfiguration

Mt. 17:2--"And He was transfigured before them, and His face did shine as the sun, & His raiment was white as the light."

** In Gethsemane
** John 18:6--"As soon then as He had said unto them, I am, they went backward, & fell to the ground."
--We would have looked for Him as a PRINCE in a Palace but He came as a SERVANT TO a stable

2-"...and was made in the likeness of MEN"
--Aorist indicates that a point of time arrived when Christ took on humanity, which was a state of being that was new
--He became the GOD/MAN !
--John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (+ we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace + truth."
--He assumed a human nature---rather than an angelic nature (Heb. 2:14-18)---for the purpose of being our REDEEMER
--He had to become ONE OF US to be able to save us

3-These figures--"Form of a SERVANT" (1)
--"Likeness of MEN" (2)
Indicate the depth of self renunciation involved in Christ's coming to earth
--Fulfilled in Himself Rom. 12:16--"Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate."
--And, He did this VOLUNTARILY
--Heb. 10:7--"Then said I, lo, I come(in the volume of the book it is written of me") to do Thy will, O God"

Two Expressions to present Jesus to us

C.-His Example! (John 13:1-17) Taking the TOWEL + BASIN Washing feet of disciples— A TRUE SERVANT

III.-THE HUMILIATION OF CHRIST---(2:8):

A.-Humiliation As A Man: (2:8a)
1-Neither His DEITY nor His SERVANTHOOD were assumed at incarnation Rather, they were His character — What He (Is)
2-But His MANHOOD was something new that demanded His "coming down" in humiliation
--A real man!
--But more than a man
--Christ had a DUAL NATURE
--Fully God and fully man
--Definite article is not used here, so=="found in fashion as MAN"
3-To be a man is a "come-down", for Psalm 8 indicates that man was made a "little lower than the angels"

B.-Humiliation In Death: (2:8b)
"And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself + became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."
1-This is a FURTHER humiliation, below being made human
--"Humbled"=="Made low"
--Used of the Nile River at its lowest stage
--Jesus stooped even lower than the footstool of the slave to a humiliation which only a few endured
2-"Obedient unto (=="to the extent of") death" (2:8c)
--For most of us our obedience has its LIMIT
--Jesus' obedience was limitless!

** Jn. 6:38--"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me." (5)

** Heb. 10:9--"Then said He, Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God."

--He took the punishment due for a malefactor -ME

--Yet, He was ALWAYS IN CONTROL, for He dismissed His own spirit and died of His own volition

3-"Even the death of the cross" (2:8d)

--No article, so:="even such a death as cross-death"

--Crucifixion was reserved for the despised & the degraded:

** Painful & shameful

** Ignominious death

** A cursed death

** Death of a CRIMINAL !

--Gal. 3:13--"...for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"

--And He took this LOWEST POINT of humiliation ---the death of one accursed & separated from God

--WHY DID HE DO IT??? ?

--He did it;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;It was FOR ME !! For You !!!

C.-Humiliation's Purposes:

1-These are two-fold: --SACRIFICE for sin - Salvation

NB BOTH --EXAMPLE for a life of condescension - Service to others

2-Many today are looking at:

--"The gentle Jesus" (Fosdick)

--"The Bold Galilean"

--"The Nazarene" (Scholem Asch)

--In order to walk "IN HIS STEPS" (Sheldon)

3-But let it be clearly stated that Jesus Christ is an EXAMPLE only to those to whom He is first their SAVIOR and LORD !

IV.-THE EXHORTATION CONCERNING CHRIST---(2:5):

A.-Background From Phs. 2:1-4: — Read

1-Exhortation to unity because of a developing party spirit among the believers -2:1-2

2-Explanation that meekness is needed 2:3-4

3-Example is expressed in Jesus Christ--2:5

APPLICATION #1

B.-Let This MIND Be In You: = ATTITUDE

1-Mind of Christ is seen in His CONDESCENSION FOR OTHER

2-Philippians are to emulate in their lives:

--Distinctive virtues spoken of in 2:2-4

--The example of "living it" seen in the Savior

--This is to be our "mind" ==="our constant thinking pattern"= ATTITUDE

3-Jesus said: "Learn of Me" (Mt. 11:29)

4-WHY this exhortation?? ?

NB

-Because: "Those who professed to have made great sacrifices for the sake of Christ might never dream of making even the slightest (sacrifice) for a brother." (Denny, EXPOSITORS, P. 732)

-Matthew Henry--"If we were lowly-minded, we should be like-minded; and, if we were like Christ, we should be lowly-minded." (VI, P. 732

-Jowett--"When we have the mind of anybody, we share the very springs of their being. It is so much more than a resemblance in detached and single habits; it is to have their way of feeling, their way of doing things...If we are like anybody in mind, we shall resemble them in every way." (P. 70)

5-ILLUS--Webster defines "SELFLESS" as "having no regard to self." Such selflessness came into view in startling fashion in 1944 in the Battle for the Philippines as a result of many defeats suffered by the Japanese fleet. It was then that the desperate KAMIKAZE suicide attacks were introduced.

Fighter planes carrying bombs crash-dived on our carrier decks. Then "mother-bombers" flew within sight of our ships and released missles which were manned by a volunteer suicide pilot to guide it into our ships.

Every one of those SELF-LESS pilots went to his death---every one a volunteer. By the time Japan surrendered there were a total of 2,519 officers and men of the Imperial Japanese Navy who lost their lives in devotion to their Emperor on these Kamikaze attacks.

The sacrifice which devotion to Christ demands of most of us is a LIVING SACRIFICE. The Lord wants life, rather than death. That is genuinely selfless. That is what the Church of Jesus Christ needs---

---the pure white flame of devotion to the Lord Jesus that is unmixed with devotion to self. That is the solution to every problem we face as Christians.

APPLICATION #2

C.-Let This SAVIOR Be Yours:

1-Impossible to please the Lord if you do not acknowledge HIM in your life

2-RECEIVE LIFE from the Lord, and then you can live it! as you get to know HIM

3-Have you "Let this Christ be yours!" Incarnation

4-The greatness of Christmas exists not only in Christ's incomprehensible transition from wealth to poverty, but also in the fact that He underwent that transition FOR US---

---to make us rich with His riches." (Eric Fife)

NB

CONCLUSION:

OR — See P. 9 for alt. Concl.

A.-WANTED: More Than A Cuddly Savior:

There is something lovable, terribly human and transcendently wonderful about a baby. When one looks unblinking, into infant eyes, they are full of mystery. It is easy to fall down and worship at a cradle! Perhaps that is why Christmas is so widely observed, even by those who make no religious response to it. It is a kind of BIRTHDAY OF BABYHOOD. We sing: "The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head." We like little and sweet and cuddly things at Christmas. We're intrigued by a cuddly Savior.

Alas! Babies do not stay babies and cuddly Saviors do not stay cuddly. They learn to talk. They grow up. They grow out of our control. They burst from their cradles to stride into the world. They learn to love; they learn to die. No parent wants his child to stay young, but it is nevertheless very hard for parents to free their little ones and to admit that they have become BIG ONES.

Jesus faced such a reluctance in His own time. When He went back to teach in His hometown synagogue, his neighbors, by His wisdom and His works, voiced a question that neighbors often ask about the grown-up local youngsters:

"IS NOT THIS THE CARPENTER'S SON?"

They obviously couldn't imagine how anybody they had known from childhood could amount to anything. How do you take seriously anyone whom you've known all your life?

I daresay that if a former school-teacher should come to the WHITE HOUSE for a visit & would sit across the desk from the President, she would see not a world leader, but the little boy that had a hard time with fractions. "I'VE KNOWN HIM ALL HIS LIFE!" is the greater judgment upon self than on the subject when it is used as a "put down".

A prophet is without honor on his own street mainly because everyone else on the street is without honor. An absent or visiting Messiah always seems to be the authentic one -------which may be why few Americans today are taking Jesus Christ SERIOUSLY. We have known Him since His babyhood in creches all over the country. We've associated Jesus Christ with Christmas trees and the babe in the manger: "Little Lord Jesus, no crying He made."

There is a time for a baby and there is a time for a man. There is a time for Christmas.....and there is a time for CALVARY and for EASTER.

There is a time for wonder and there is a time for commitment. Perhaps Christmas is not a day to last all year long. In fact, perhaps it has lasted too long already. Perhaps if we were to let the Babe grow up, WE WOULD GROW UP TOO.

The incarnation is not a drama of a nestling, containable, cuddly Christ, but of a Christ at large in the world, Who demands my faith,

my life,

my all!

What's your reaction to this One Who came "FROM RICHES TO RAGS" for you?

ALTERNATIVE CONCLUSION:

A.-Recapitulation:

I.-Description of Christ--True God & fully equal w Father + Spirit

II.-Condescension of Christ--Emptied &
Expressed as Servant & Man

III.-Humiliation of Christ--As a man
--In death of the Cross

IV.-Exhortations--This Mind
--This SAvior
--This Lord

B.-ILLUSTRATION:

If you wanted to communicate the reality of your LOVE FOR ANTS, es you would find it impossible without BECOMING AN ANT, and living as an ant and meeting the total heart needs of ants.

Jesus bridged a greater gulf from God to man, from perfection to sinners by leaving heaven and becoming a man like we are. He took upon Himself true humanity, became a servant and then died as a substitutionary sacrifice in behalf of all mankind. Indeed, ... HEAVEN CAME DOWN when Jesus Christ left riches for rags and became the Savior of all men, evidencing the LOVE OF GOD for all mankind.

C.-APPLICATION:

1-PROPOSITION restated: "Our Lord renounced His heavenly home to be a man among men in this world of sin, so we might share heaven with HIM."

2-Questions--Is Jesus OUR Savior ??
--Is He YOUR Lord ??
--Are you knowing Him better every day ??
--Who has heard of Jesus as Savior through you ??

3-What is your response to this One Who came from RICHES to RAGS for You ??

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8 That Beautiful Name
46 Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne
And Can It Be That I Should Gain?
IVORY PALACES 249
Heaven Came Down
3/31/06 Salina Bible Ch - PA

"FOLLOWING GOD'S APPROVED PATTERN" Phil. 2:12-16

Read 2:1-16

(1)

INTRODUCTION:

A.-An Epigram:

1-There is an English Proverb: "Example is better than precept."

2-And, we all **know the truth** of that proverb !

3-**Example** has **great influence**

4-In fact one has said: "Example is not **the main thing** in influencing others. It is **the only thing**." (Albert Schweitzer)

B.-An Exampler:

1-Such a man was **Benjamin Franklin:**

Franklin learned that **plaster** sown in the fields would make things grow. He told his neighbors, but they did not believe him, and they **argued** with him that plaster could be of no use at all to grass or grain.

After a little while he allowed the matter to drop & said no more about it. But he went into the field early the next spring and **sowed** some **grain**. Close to the path, where men would walk, he traced some letters with his finger and put plaster into them and then sowed his seed in the field.

After a week or two the seed **sprang up**. His neighbors as they passed that way were very much surprised to see in brighter green than all of the rest **the writing in large letters**. "**THIS FIELD HAS BEEN PLASTERED**." Franklin did not need to argue with his neighbors any more about the benefit of plaster for fields. As the season went on and the grain grew, these bright, **green letters just rose** up above all the rest until they were a kind of relief-plate in the field--"THIS FIELD HAS BEEN PLASTERED"

C.-An Expression:

1-Paul was guided by the Holy Spirit in a similar vein in Phil. 2:

(1)-"When Heaven Came Down"---2:1-8

(2)-"Heaven Received Him UP"--2:9-11

THIS (3)-"FOLLOWING GOD'S **APPROVED PATTERN**"--2:**12-16** Their Message

(4)-2:17-30--"When Comparison is Profitable"— NEXT

2-An **example** seen **prepares people to hear** instruction which can strongly influence their lives

3-PROP: God's approved pattern has been shown **IN HIS SON** Jesus Christ, and is also to be shared BY HIS **SONS** who are heirs of salvation

4-Transition: Let us remind ourselves of that approved pattern which has been shown us in God's Son, Jesus Christ.....

I.-WHAT IS GOD'S APPROVED PATTERN ??:

A.-Pattern Seen In Christian Unity: (Phil. 2:1-4)

1-Christianity touches (2:1)
- -ETERNAL issue of salvation
- -EVERYDAY issues of living > BOTH!
  - ** Consolation==Encouragement
  - ** Comfort of love
  - ** Fellowship of the Spirit
  - ** Bowels & Mercies==Affection & compassion

2-Joy completed (2:2)
- --By unity of mind
- --By unity of love
- --By unity of spirit
- --by unity of purpose
- --Ryrie note: "they would cap off his pleasure if they would work together harmoniously and clear up their petty quarrels. Paul particularly had in mind the division caused by two women Euodia and Syntyche." (P. 1791, Ryrie Study B.

3-Humble Christian life that honors God (2:3)
- -NEGATIVE
  - ** No actions out of selfish factiousness
  - ** No vain glory==empty glory or conceit
- -POSITIVE
  - ++But with lowliness or humility of mine
  - ++But with regard for others as more important than ourselves

*** 4-Effect of such a life is to advance the interests of OTHERS !! (2:4) ahead of concern for selfish interests

B.-Pattern Seen In Paul's Exhortation: (Phil 2:5)

1-NOT an internal measuring standard, BUT an external guage

2-"This mind" = "This attitude" (NASB); Seat of reflection *
- -Phil 1:7; 2:2, 5; 3:15, 16, 19; 4:@

3-Exhibited perfectly in Jesus Christ

4-Exhorted to be expressed in and by us:
This is THE POINT of this whole chapter

C.-Pattern Seen In Christ's Example: (Phil. 2:6-11)

1-In "COMING DOWN GRACE" of His humiliation
- --He left heaven's glory & equality with the Father
- --He left off independent exercise of His attributes
- --He adopted the form of a servant
- --He took the nature of a man
- --He humbled Himself to death
- --Even the lowest death, a cross-death

2-All He did was
- --To honor the Father
- --To provide salvation for mankind
- --To save sinners like us

3-God's reward for His Son is described
- --Highly exalted
- --Given THE Name above others
- --Determined universal subjugation to Jesus will certain

ly come to pass---KNEES will bow!!
--Determined universal praise to Jesus;
TONGUES will confess

So 4-POINT: God's approved pattern:
** Seen in Christian unity among true believers
** Exhorted to control our attitudes
** Exemplified in our Savior

NB 5-What has been seen & observed in Christ is expected to show up in our lives
--The Lord Jesus is OUR EXAMPLE !!
* --1 Pet. 2:21--"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow His steps."
--Copying Christ is something which ONLY TRUE CHRISTIANS can do

6-That leads to the question ILLUS- Exemplar in spelling above blackboard

II.-WHAT IS EXPECTED OF US IN FOLLOWING GOD'S APPROVED PATTERN?: ("Do you copy me?")

* ### A.-Expectation #1--BE OBEDIENT To Divine Direction: (2:12)

1-The logical connection "WHEREFORE"
--Seen in Phil. 2:9 & 2:12
--Paul's purpose is APPLICATION of the truth seen in Christ to life by God's spiritual family
--This term shows us that doctrine always leads to practical christianity
--Paul turns from THE EXAMPLE to our experience of obedience and humility in living the Christian life

2-The personal address--"My beloved"
--Frequent useage by Paul
--Expression of spiritual closeness

3-Their past performance
--These Philippians have not lived in their past lives before salvation as Paul now sets forth in 2:1-4
--Then Paul came to them with the gospel
** They SAW a new life
** They HEARD a new message
** They BEGAN a new performance
++ Gospel was heard & believed
++ Changes started & continued !!

--J. D. Pentecost:
"The Apostle Paul is putting a motive before them. It is not difficult for a child to obey what the parent has told him to do when the parent is in the same room. The very presence of the parent who has given the order is a strong motive to obedience. How much different it is if the parent is going out of the house for a period of time and says to the child, 'When I get back, I want to find such and such a thing done.'" (Philippians, P)

4-Their present perseverance
--Apostle is not now with them to enforce good behavior

--His command has been given them in Phil. 2:5
--He puts them in mind of Christ as their supreme example in 2:5-11
--KEEP ON !!
** What would Jesus want me to do?
** What would please my Savior ?

** NB --The degree of obedience is not determined by what the child does when the parent is present, but by what he does when the parent is absent!
--OBEY BOTH ** The messenger's example, and ** the message delivered

5-Their practical product:
--"WORK OUT"
** Not to "work for", because already provided
++ Tit. 3:5--"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us..."
++ Eph. 2:8-9
++ WUEST--"...salvation is not a work of man for God, but a work of God for man, a work that was accomplished at the cross." (Phil., P. 73)
** ILLUS--One might remember the quaint saying of the little girl who listened to a legal sermon preached upon this text by a minister who was insisting that none could be saved by grace alone, but all must work out their own salvation. Innocently she asked at the close of the service, "Mother how can you work it out if you haven't got it in?"
= "To affect by diligent labor" or "TRANSLATE"; translate what you KNOW into what you DO !!
--BOICE--""...it teaches that because you are already saved, because God has already entered your life in the person of the Holy Spirit, because you, therefore have His power at work within you--because of these things you are now to strive to express this salvation in your conduct." (Philippians, P. 162)
--Let your obedience to Divine direction SHOW !!
** In your church life
** Phil. 4:1-4
** In your personal life also
** Life patterned after the humility of Christ
--STRABO, the ancient Roman Scholar born 64 B.C., writing in Greek has an account of famous silver mines in Spain & he refers to the "WORKING OUT" of those mines, using the very verb Paul uses here concerning "operating", "exploiting", "getting the utmost value out".
--ILLUS--Baseball pitcher and his arm
--God has worked IN you; Now you are to work OUT !
--"With fear & trembling"
--Frequent Pauline phrase
--Always used in connection with obedience
--2 Cor. 7:14-15--"For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus is found

a truth. And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembered the obedience of you all, how with fear & trembling ye received him."

(5)

B.-Expectation #2--BE WORKING By Divine Enablement: (2:13)

1-Unsaved man has 2 problems:
- -No desire to please God--He doesn't want to
- -No ability to please God--He isn't able to

"No good in the old man, + no power in the new"

2-Man's condition--Dead in sins (Eph. 2:1)
--Energized by Satan (Eph. 2:2)
--Practicing sin (Eph. 2:3)

3-Even the SAVED man is not able to perform to please God
--Romans 7 experience of Paul
--2 Cor. 2:16 & 3:5-6--"Who is sufficient for these..."
- --"No good in the old man, and no power in the new."

NEWELL

4-God's solutions; EMPHASIS is on God!!

(a) God's working--Phil 2:13--Same verb as in Eph. 2:2
--His energizing is DIVINE ENABLEMENT
--As a branch bears fruit because it is in vital union with the vine, so do we

(b) God's willing
--He makes us willing
--God "...operates through a recreated will." BOICE
- -His enablement makes us able
--ILLUS--F. B. Meyer relates how that once at Keswick he was confronted with some challenge of the will of God about which he was unwilling to surrender. On one of the surrounding hillsides the Lord wrestled with Meyer as He had with Jacob at Jabbok, long ago (Gen.32:24) until at last Meyer confessed that he was willing to be made willing! Thus did God gain the victory in the life of that man that set the seal of mighty blessing upon all his subsequent ministry. (King, Phil., P. 58)

(c) God's pleasure--This is real fulfillment
--Naturally selfish
--Supernaturally concerned for God's will
--What is His Will?--SEE 2:2-5
--Examples--ENOCH--Heb. 11:5
--Paul--2 Tim. 2:4

Heb. 11:5 "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God."

2 Tim. 2:4 - "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him."

5-Einstein--"Two parallel lines meet in infinity."
** Divine sovereignty &
** Human responsibility
** Example--John 5:1-9
++ Miracle came first (5:9a)
++ Changed behavior followed (5:9b)

C.-Expectation #3--BE CONTENT With Divine Placement: (2:14)

1=Be content in WHAT you do:
=="in what you are constantly doing"; YOUR PRACTICE
--Contentedness is an evidence of godliness
- 1 Tim. 6:6-9
- ALL THINGS are to show the believer's contentedness:

** Home things
** Business matters
** Government
** Church
** Interpersonal
** Status in life--Married ??
Single ??
--Widowed ??
--Divorced ??
--Childless ??
--Children ??

"Not that I speak (6) in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, there with to be content. I know how to be abased + I know how to abound: every where + in all things I am instructed both to be full + to be hungry, both to abound + to suffer need."

--Learn to live life in contentment
--Paul did---Phil. 4:11-12

2-Be content in HOW you do what you do in life
--Without murmurings=GRUMBLINGS (NASB)
** Secret debates or conferring
++ John 7:12--"And there was much murmuring among the people concerning Him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but He deceiveth the people."
++ In halls, on steps, on parking lots
++ Gripe sessions within the cliques of the church
**Complaining--Acts 6:1--"And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration."
** MORAL REBELLION is involved here when murmuring occurs
++ Toward God
--1 Cor. 10:16--"Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer
--Often repeated in the O.T. accounts
--Num.21 murmuring, even though water & manna were provided by God
--Lack of submission to God; NOT CONTENT!!
++ Toward one another
--Often toward the Pastor or Elders
--Evidence of ambition to "Rule or Ruin"
--Lack of harmony among the saints is fomented
--Without disputings=Inward questionings
--Intellectual areas
--NEED ** Tongue to be under restraint
** Ps. 141:3--"Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."

3-Someone has stated:
"There are only two kinds of people in the world: the ones who did things, and the ones who told them how they ought to be done." (Quoted by Dr. Ernest Pickering, RBP materials on Philippians, P. 55, 1967)

4-Be content.....and.....

D.-Expectation #4--BE FAITHFUL In Divine Responsibilities: (Phil. 2:15-16)

1-Be faithful in character (2:15)
--"That ye may BE" ** Being is the fountainhead of doing
** Character produces conduct
** Character is what you are in the dark or when no one is looking
--"Blameless"==without cause of censure; no fault
--Not condemned by anyone
--John 8:46a--"Which of you convinceth Me of sin...?"
--"Harmless"==Unmixed; Unadulterated; PURE
--Wine without water; Metal without alloy
--"The sons of God"...Evidencing WHO you are related to; To your God!!
--"Without rebuke"==Without blemish; unblameable

2-Be faithful in context (2:15)
--What is it like in the world in which we live and serve our Lord?
--"A crooked & perverse nation (=generation)"
** "Crooked"==Deviating from the truth
--Don't think correctly
--Morally crooked
--Peter used this term of Israel in Acts 2:40 on Day of Pentecost
** "Perverse"==Twisted, distorted in the area of ideas
--Turned aside & out of focus
** "Nation" (=generation). The whole multitude of men living at any given time
--Our context is all the ones around us who are deviating from the truth and distorted in their ideas
--POINT is that we are to be faithful in character in such a context as to SHOW THE DIFFERENCE! between ourselves (=the saved) and the unsaved who surround us.

Keep on keeping on!

3-Be faithful in continuance
--"Among whom ye shine as lights"
** You have shined
** You are shining now
** You need to continue to shine; "GLOW" on & on !!
** Lights are made for darkness and are put there TO SHINE !!
** ILLUS---Lighthouse which warns of a rocky shore
** One difference:
+Lighthouse is like the SUN; a source of light
+ Christians are like the MOON; a light reflector
+ Our light source is the Lord (Jn. 8:12 & 9:5)
+Our light is HIS LIGHT REFLECTED !!
+ Matt. 5:14--"Ye are the light of the world.."
--"Holding forth the word of life" (2:16a)
** Metaphor of offering the gospel to others
** Sharing truth with people
** Used of offering a guest a drink

--Let us continue faithfully shining so people see our God in and through us; not as bench warmers, but as light sharers!

4-Be faithful in contemplation of that day (2:16b)
--Looking ahead to reward time (Judgment Seat of Christ)
--Living in the light of answerability for our works
--Paul wants to be able to rejoice then
--To do that he must have served effectively
** Metaphor of the athlete who runs
** Metaphor of the laborer who toils
--Reminds me of Heb. 13:17--"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves, for they watch for your souls, as they that must give an account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."
** Elders & Pastor watch for souls of congregation & give an account to God
** Followers need to obey their leaders leading
** So that they may mutually rejoice
** Failure will be "UNPROFITABLE" for you

CONCLUSION:

A.-Proposition Repeated:

1-God's approved pattern has been shown IN HIS SON, Jesus Christ and is to be shared BY HIS SONS who are heirs of salvation

2-Resume':
I.-REMINDER--A.-Pattern seen in Christian Unity (2:1-4)
B.-Pattern seen in Paul's exhortation (2:5)
C.-Pattern seen in Christ's Example (2:6-11)
II.-REQUIREMENTS:
A.-Be obedient to Divine direction (2:12)
B.-Be working by Divine enablement (2:13)
C.-Be content with Divine placement (2:14)
D.-Be faithful in Divine responsibilities (2:15-16)

4 of these

B.-Proposition Reinforced:

1-Purpose of 2:12-16 is to practicalize and personalize the truth shown doctrinally expressed in Jesus Christ

2="Following God's Approved Pattern" means that we live our lives as an extended "THANK YOU NOTE" to God!

3-ILLUS--I've found an illustration that is most helpful in communicating that although works play no part in salvation, once a person is saved, works become a means of thanking God for what He has done. I say to a believer, "Let's suppose you are in the hospital with a terminal disease. I am the one doctor who can cure you, and I do it. I am sure I could ask you to help me in any way I wanted, and you would do so in appreciation. THEY ALWAYS AGREE.
"But suppose 5 years after I have cured you, you are going downtown. I need a ride and I ask if I may ride with you. You answer 'NO'! GET YOUR OWN RIDE!

Is your body still delivered from the dread disease from which it was cured when I ministered to you five years earlier? THEY PONDER THAT for a moment and then answer, "Sure."

I reply, 'RIGHT'----but that is a terrible way to express your appreciation." I then explain, "In the same way, once one trusts Christ, he is FOREVER A CHILD OF GOD. As Paul says in Romans 11:29, 'For the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable.' Everything one does from the point of salvation is a "THANK YOU" to God. If we do not live for God, that does not alter our salvation. He has accepted us on the basis of His Son's performance, not on ours.

But such a life is a most regrettable way to say, "THANK YOU, GOD"

4-Rhetorical questions:

- -How do you intend to say "THANK YOU" to God?
- -Will you now determine to follow His approved pattern in Phil. 2:12-16
- -What will that "THANK YOU" involve ?
- -Review the 4 points from 2:12-16
  - A.-BE OBEDIENT to Divine direction (2:12)
  - B.-BE WORKING by divine enablement (2:13)
  - C.-BE CONTENT with Divine placement (2:14)
  - D.-BE FAITHFUL in Divine responsibilities (2:15-16)

"May The Mind Of Christ My Saviour"

11/1/87--O.K.B.C.
2/16/88-New England IFCA Regional
1-"The Name Of Jesus" #9
2-"O For A Thousand Tongues" #222
3-"Trust And Obey" #402

3/14/89-Caldwell, OH.-Wayne Smith
3/21/89-Charleston Harbor B.C., S.C.
6/15/92-Taupo, NZ
10/26/97 Waterman Bible Ch, IL
3/10/97-Bella Vista, ARK-Heritage Bapt. Ch.
10/21/01-Valley Chapel Com. Ch., OH

"THREE WITH SKIN ON THEM" or Phil. 2:17-30 (1)

"THREE EARTHLY REPRODUCTIONS" or

"REPRODUCING THE GOD-APPROVED PATTERN"

INTRODUCTION:

A.-The Tabernacle's Pattern:

1-Heavenly reality
2-Heavenly pattern given to Moses at Mt. Sinai
3-Worship meeting place built on earth for ISRAEL
4-Place where the redeemed met & worshipped their Creator / Redeemer / Sustainer / Promiser

B.-The Church's Pattern:

1-Christ from heaven
2-Came to the earth
3-Redeemer from sin
4-ALSO!! --Pattern for life for those who know Him as /Creator Redeemer / Sustainer / Promiser
--The HEAVENLY PATTERN
--Example for Christians to follow
--1 Pet. 2:21--"For even hereunto were ye called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps;"

C.-The Philippians 2 Pattern:

1-(2:1-4) Pattern of humility for Christian life
2-(2:5-8) Personification of humility in Christ
3-(2:9-11) Pay-Off of humility --Resurrection
--Ascension
--Exaltation
4-(2:12-16) Pattern of humility reproduced in true Christians
1 --BE OBEDIENT to Divine directions
2 --BE WORKING by Divine enablement
3 --BE CONTENT with Divine placement
4 --BE FAITHFUL in Divine responsibility
5-PROP: We need to see this pattern of humility in life and service, so we can reproduce it in our lives.
6-ILLUS --Donna Russell--"Somehow I need to talk to and get help from SOMEONE WITH SKIN ON THEM, instead of only prayer communication with the Lord, Who is not seen."
7-Let's look at "Three WITH SKIN ON THEM" who were Partners for Christ, reproducing our Lord in humble service. FIRST

I.-REPRODUCING THE GOD-APPROVED PATTERN IN PAUL: (Phil. 2:17-18, 24)

A.-Christ Expressed In Sacrificial Service: (2:17)

1-Only a brief ref. by Paul to himself --3 verses for Paul
--6 for Tim. & 6 for Epap

2-Very potent image in "OFFERED"=="Poured out" (2:17a) (2)
Drink offering --2 Tim. 4:6 also

3-Boice: "If we were to have watched a Greek or a Roman perform such an offering, we would have seen him arrive at an altar with his sacrifice. It would have been a **living** animal, and it would have been **valuable**. The animal would have been killed, and after it had been killed it would have been burned on the altar, giving off a sweet fragrance in the process. At this point the ancient worshipper would have made an **additional** offering called a **libation**. He would have taken a **cup of wine** and **poured** it upon the altar, thus **pouring it** upon the sacrifice that was already burning. Because the altar was hot, the libation would immediately disappear in a puff of **steam** and be gone!

Paul is referring to this offering. And he is saying this: 'I know that you are worried about me because I am in prison in Rome and **my life** may **soon be offered up** upon a pagan altar. But my life is not the important thing. The **important thing** is **your faith**. The faith is the substantial and valuable offering. And it is itself a sweet fragrance to God. When my **life is poured out** it will only be the **drink offering poured out** upon the far greater offering of **your faith**." (Philippians, Pp. 175-176)

4-Do you **see what this means**?
- --Paul puts his achievements---even his martyrdom--at a **very low point** on the scale of Christian service
- *-He holds up instead the **faith** and **service** of the Philippian believers for admiration
- --2:17b
- --**EXAMPLE** of the very humility and obedience to Christ of which Paul was writing

5-We need to **apply** Paul's self-evaluation to ourselves and not reckon our **own achievements** too highly

NB

6-Paul's genuine humility was **the product** of a long and intimate relationship with God---ONE DAY AT A TIME !!

7-Life of true humility & obedience is possible

8-But, it is gained **one step at a time**

9-**Gal. 2:20**

B.-Christ Expressed In **Mutual Rejoicing**: (2:18)

1-"**for the same cause also do ye**"
- ==VINE "And in the same manner you"
- ==NASB "And you too, I urge you"

2-**Pattern** seen in Paul is **to be REPRODUCED** in his converts !!

3-"JOY"--χαίρετε ==**"Rejoice"; "Be glad"**
- --Opposite of weeping & sorrow

4-"REJOICE"--συγχαίρετε=="Rejoice together"

USES
- -Lk.15:6,9-Rejoice over recovery of the lost
- -Phil.2:17,18--Rejoice in suffering for the cause of the gospel
- --Lk.1:58-Rejoice in the joy of another (Elizabeth at the birth of John
- --1 Cor. 12:26-Rejoice in the honor offellow belivers
- --2 Cor. 7:17-Rejoice in the triumph of the truth

5-Joy is one element in the Fruit of the Spirit
6-These are exhortations presented in the imperative md.
7-Believers need to express a mutuality of joy between them as Paul did toward the Philippians

C.-Christ Expressed In Trustful Anticipation: (2:24)

1-Paul hopes to send Timothy soon (2:23) to tell an update on how things turn out in Rome at Paul's trial
2-Paul also hopes to see them again "shortly"
3-HOPE is what we live by--See 1:25
--Hope to invest in them again
4-Question: WHO are you trusting God to allow you to make an investment in them ??
5-Paul expresses Christ in his life--In prison
--In offering himself
--In joy
--In anticipation
--In humility
6-How do YOU express Christ in your life ??

II.-REPRODUCING THE GOD-APPROVED PATTERN IN TIMOTHY: (2:19-23)

(2:19 2:23)

A.-Christ Seen In Timothy As Paul's Messenger:

1-To comfort the Philippian believers with news of Paul
--Pr. 25:25--"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."
--His message (2:23)
--Possibly also with instructions from Paul as in I Cor. 4:17--"For this cause have I sent unto you Timothy, who is my beloved son and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which are in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church."
2-To comfort Paul with news of how the Philippian believers are faring--Timothy has previously served as a messenger in similar cases (I Th.3:2)
--2:19
--Comfort comes from good news

B.-Christ Seen In Timothy As Paul's Co-Laborer: (2:20)

1-Timothy's LIKEMINDEDNESS (2:20)
--ἰσόψυχος =="of equal soul"; "Kindred spirit"
--Paul had no one so wholehearted as Timothy
--Internship with Paul for at least 10 years has rubbed off on Timothy
--Timothy is LIKE PAUL-------LIKE JESUS !!
--Lk. 6:40--"The disciple is not above his teacher, but every one that is perfect shall be as his teacher."
--No one of equal quality was available to undertake this mission as Paul's messenger
--What an example Timothy is !!

2-Timothy's CONCERN FOR OTHERS (2:20b)
--He cared for people naturally (supernaturally?)
--He will give undistracted attention to their needs & welfare
--Disposition of a TRUE SHEPHERD
--Learned this also from Paul-----I Thess. 2:7-11 Read
--ILLUS--Jacob in the Old Testament
** One of the Patriarchs
** Liar, Cheat, Impatient, Momma's boy
** Praiseworthy in his faithfullness to the care of Laban's flocks
++ Gen. 31:38-41
++ A good shepherd & Laban could not fault him
** Concerned over the fragility of flocks & herd
++ Esau wanted him to hurry the caravan to his home (Gen. 33:12)
++ Jacob responds with a shepherd's care (Gen.33:13-14)
--Pastoral heart means moving among the sheep, and meeting the needs they have
--Timothy was superb in that ability!

3-Timothy's PRIORITIES (2:21)
--All (of the others) seek their own (interests)
--That is not Christlike
--Phil. 2:4
--Timothy is DIFFERENT!!
--Timothy is likeminded with Christ
--Timothy seeks "the things which are Christ's
--Matter of active choice
-Reputation / Pleasure
-Plans / Family / Success
-CHRIST was Timothy's priority
--This choice produces active involvement in people and service
--THEN everything else falls into place

NB

ON + ON + ON!

4-Timothy's PROVEN SERVICE (2:22)
--PROVEN fitness is known to all who knew Timothy
--Church in Philippi had experienced Timothy's presence & performance when Paul & Silas founded it (Acts 16:12)
--Included in the salutation of the Philippian letter (1:1)
--Thoroughly known by them
--"As a son"--FILIAL relationship (Titus also)
--"With the father" ** Not for the father, but WITH!
** CO-laborers

N.B

--"Hath served with me in the gospel" * FELLOW-LABORER
* No generation gap
--Boice: "...whatever standards you would set for them (your children) and whatever patterns of obedience you would seek to instill in them must also become real for you and be a part of YOUR SERVICE." (Philippians, P. 179)
--ULTIMATE LOYALTY ++ Not to you
++ Not to me
++ But to the Lord Jesus Christ
--True of Timothy.....Needs to be true of every Christian

5

5-Christ was clearly seen in Timothy
--In his likemindedness
--In his concern for others
--In his priorities
--In his proven service

6-Question: Is Christ clearly seen in YOU in these ways ??

III.-REPRODUCING THE GOD-APPROVED PATTERN IN EPAPHRODITUS: (2:25-30)

A.-Christ Seen In Epaphroditus' Relation To the Philippians:

1-"Your MESSENGER"--απόστολον (2:25) /BIBLE
--PASTOR of the Philippi Baptist Ch.
--Emmisary from that church to supply the needs of Paul in Rome

2-Your CARER--2:26
--Longing after them with a pastor's heart of concern
--Homesick for his flock

3-Your BURDEN--Sorely troubled in that Epaphroditus had become sick in Rome
--Distress to Epaphroditus that Philippian Christians had heard of his serious illness & are burdened for his wellbeing
--DETAILS ** 6 weeks trip Philippi to Rome
** Committed service to the incarcerated Paul in Rome
** Illness overtakes him
** Word travels back to Philippi
** Concern of the Philippian Ch. makes itself known in Rome
** Likely 6 months since Epaphroditus left Philippi

4-NOTES ABOUT SICKNESS:
--Paul sees no sin in Epaphroditus having fallen ill in the midst of his labors
--Paul had healed others:
** Acts 14:8-10-Crippled man in Lystra enabled to walk
** Acts 16:16-18-Demon-possessed girl in Phillipi freed from demonic control
** Acts 19:11-12-Special miracles in Ephesus delivered the sick, the diseased, & the demon-oppressed
** Acts 28:8-Father of Publius lay sick of fever & bloody dysentery & Paul laid hands upon him & healed him
--NO HEALING for Epaphroditus
--Why not ?? ** Healings were all on unsaved people
** Healings were always for accreditat'n
** Healings were never for relief of the pain of a Christian brother
** Healings were a transitory ability which passed in the 1st century

--No miraculous healing for Epaphroditus
--Recovery was due to the mercy of God

B.-Christ Seen In Epaphroditus' Relation To Paul:

1="My brother" (2:25) --Christian friend in the family of God
--Other brotherhoods
** Soldiers
** Labor unions
** Secret societies
** All very superficial!!
--Christians did not talk much about Christian brotherhood, but it was REAL, CLOSE & SPECIAL
--Involvement in one another's lives !!
--Many imitations of closeness, but Christian brotherhood is "THE REAL THING!"

2-"and companion in labor" (2:25)
--Fellow-worker
--Reminds of Rev. 2:3--"And hast borne, and hast patience, & for my Name's sake hast labored, & hast not fainted." WORKER not a SHIRKER
--Man who TOILED in the ministry
--Almost a lost element in 20th century Christianity
++Complacent
++ LAZY
++ Spectators SIT / SOAK / SOUR Crowd
++ SECOND-GUESSERS
--We need to reconstitute a WORKING CHURCH in our day, or we will have no church tomorrow !!
NB
* YOU must befriend the lost
** YOU must win a hearing
* YOU must present the gospel
* YOU must involve yourself in the lives of others
** YOU must care about their problems
* YOU must be ready to apply Christian truth to pagan life.

3-"Fellowsoldier" (2:25) --One who shares in spiritual warfare
--One who knows the truth of Eph. 6:12
--Shoulder-to-shoulder fighting accounted for Rome's success in the fields of battle:
** Dressed alike
** Armed alike
** A solid wall of shields as they advanced
** Singing songs of victory as they moved into battle
** Companions in conflicts & dangers
--So it was with Epaphroditus
--Also with Archippus (Philemon 2 is the only other use of "fellowsoldier"

4-Minister to Paul's needs (2:25)
--As THEIR AGENT to bring supplies and their monetary gift to him in Rome
--As one who actively ministered with a will of his own
** LEGS to go where Paul could not go
** EYES to see what Paul could not see
** HANDS to do what Paul could not do
** EARS to hear what Paul could not hear

--Giving himself to the task of ministering to Paul had brought his health to low-ebb
-But there is no evidence of sorrow over it

5-Epahroditus--Relation to Philippians * Pastor
* Carer for them
* Burden to their heart

--Relation to Paul ** BROTHER
** Fellow-worker
** FELLOWSOLDIER
** Ministering one

NB AMEN!

6-I doubt that any in heaven will ever regret their service for God, but I am sure many will regret their commitment to lesser causes

7-How will it be for you ??--Rejoicing ??....or Ladder leaned against the wrong building
--REGRETTING ??....thru all eternity

IV.-REPRODUCING THE GOD-APPROVED PATTERN IN THE CHURCH: (2:28-30)

A.-A Christlike Spirit Evidenced In The Philippian Church:

1-They are to REJOICE over Epaphroditus' return (2:28)
--Appropriate because he is a brother
--Appropriate because he has been SICK
--Appropriate because he has been serving the church
**-Appropriate because he is THEIR PASTOR —"Know them"
—"Esteem them"

2-They are to RECEIVE Epaphroditus (2:29)
--In the Lord
--With gladness
-"Hold such a one in reputation"==HONOR HIM !!
** Used of Centurion's servant (Lk. 7:2)
** Used of Christ as a precious stone (1 Pet.2:4,6)
--Servants of Christ are due this respect
*-1 Tim. 5:17-19 Read it.

3-They are to REGARD Epaphroditus for his work (2:30)
--Laborer is worthy of his hire
--Part of that is in financial support
--Also part is in HONOR or ESTEEM
--Because of the work of Christ to which he gives himself
--May or may not be attracted to the person of God's servant, but we are expected to be appreciative of their performance
--1 Thess. 5:12-13

4-We do not know how the Philippian church responded to Paul's plea that they evidence a Christlike spirit toward their Pastor, Epaphroditus---because we have no letter called SECOND PHILLIPPIANS

B.-A Christlike Spirit Evidenced In THIS CHURCH!!: HERE

1-Christ as our SUPREME Example (2:1-11
2-Paul as our APOSTOLIC Example (2:17-18, 24)
3-Timothy as our YOUNG Example (2:19-23)
4-Epaphroditus as our PASTORAL Example (2:25-30)

5-**Question:** How does **this people** respond to such patterns of God-approved conduct ??

6-**Answer**--**Hard to generalize**, because each of us is an individual and "THE CHURCH" is **not** a **uniform** whole

7-Question: **HOW WILL YOU RESPOND** to these patterns of God-approved conduct ??

** 8-Remember: God does not give us His Word **TO INFORM US**...but **TO TRANSFORM US**

9-ILLUS--Mayor Ed Koch of NYC is reported to move among the citizens of NYC and ask his constituency: **"HOW AM I DOING?"**

→ Dare we do less than a politician does? He has to please voters, but we are called upon to PLEASE GOD!!

10-**How would God answer** you today if you were to ask about **YOUR REPRODUCTION** of the God-approved pattern?

11--Will you **ask Him** ?? ?

CONCLUSION:

A.-**Three Earthly Reproductions** Of Christlikeness:

1-Paul, the **APOSTLE**--Sacrificial service Phs. 2:27-19
--Mutual rejoicing
--Trustful anticipation

2-Timothy, the **APPRENTICE**: 2:19-24
--Approved as Paul's messenger
--Approved as Paul's co-laborer

3-Epaphroditus, the **PASTOR**: 2:25-30
--His relations to the **Phil. Ch**--FAITHFUL !!
--His relations to the **Apostle Paul**--APPRECIATED

4-We have seen "Three with skin on them"

Here is the KEY →
--Real-life **godly men** who served God in their generation
--**Reproducers** of the God-approved pattern found pre-eminently in our Lord Jesus Christ
--**Earthly reproductions** of the heavenly pattern
--We have **looked** at them **closely**
--**So have other readers** of Scripture for **19** centuries
--**What an impact** they have made !!
** On their own generation
** On all the intervening generations

B.-One **Earthly Reminder**:

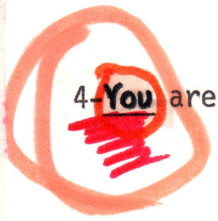
1-ILLUS--British battleship in the Thames River, London. On the bridge in front of the Admiral's chair is a brass plaque: "REMEMBER THE NEXT ASTERN"

What **you do**,
Others will **follow** !!

2-Parallel --Others are watching your life
--Others are observing your actions
--Others are following your example
--Is it the GOD-APPROVED PATTERN?? ?

3-Who are "The Next Astern" for you?? --Spouse
--Children
--Grandchildren
--Relatives
--Neighbors
--Co-workers

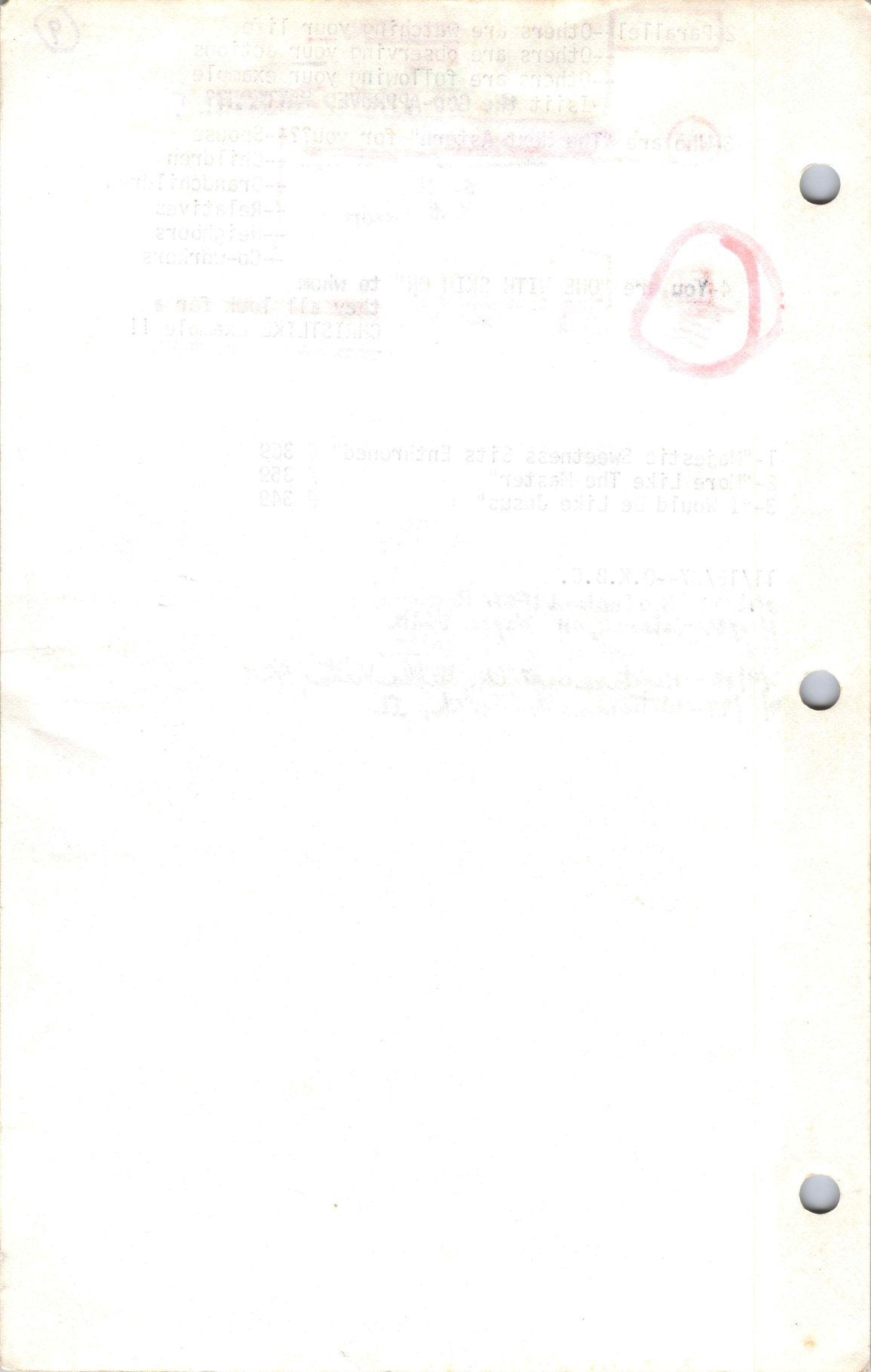
SS Class
Youth Group



4-You are "ONE WITH SKIN ON" to whom they all look for a CHRISTLIKE example !!

1-"Majestic Sweetness Sits Enthroned" # 369
2-"More Like The Master" # 359
3-"I Would Be Like Jesus" # 349

11/15/87--O.K.B.C.
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Jesus Christ — The Servant of God

I.- Example - Textus Classicus - Phs. 2:5-11

A.- formerly with the Father

B.- willingly divested self of glory - Why?

Ro. 8:3
1.- to be sent in likeness of sinful flesh
2.- to be sent for sin to condemn sin in the flesh (for in the flesh was where the dominion of sin over man had been originally accomplished)

C.- humility = Father's will ahead of own - Mt. 26:39, 42

D.- Obedient
1.- willingly - Jn. 10:18
2.- proved - Heb. 5:8 (not to learn, but prove)

E.- Result - Exaltation
1.- Man took X - Ac. 2:23
2.- God raised X - Ac. 2:24
3.- Service leads to exaltation Ro. 14:10-12

II Purpose

A.- Phs. 2:1-4 - Example given to show us unity, love, + joy of service

B.- Positive -
1.- Jn. 13:1-12 - Part of a Servant
2.- Jn. 13:12-17 Purpose of a servant esp. 13:15
13:17 — Know — Do

C.- Negative. MK - 10:35-45
1.- James + John ask for position
2.- " " " asked if they can partake.
3.- " " " told position is for those for whom it is prepared
4.- Other disciples displeased
5.- Teaching of X.- NOT authority, but service is the test of greatness
Illus. 10:45 - X himself - This is key to all of Mark. - The book of The Servant

III Application - Back to Phs. 2:5

A.- This mind =
1.- unity of service
2.- love of service
3.- joy of service

B.- Also in Christ Jesus - The supreme example of the Servant

C.- LET (allow) in you
1.- trying to accomplish in our own power is both fruitless + impossible + certainly not pleasing in God's sight - "Whatsoever is not of faith is Sin
2.- Allow the Π to manifest Himself in our service by "walking in the Π" or more properly "walking in dependence upon the Π" + he will perform the work.

"PAUL, THE MAN" Phil. 3:1-11; 1 Tim. 1:11-16

ABRAHAM
MOSES
SOLOMON
PAUL
MOSES MAIMONODES

INTRO:

A.=PAUL, THE MAN WE KNOW:

1-Conviction--Thru Stephen's testimony
--Thru persecution of Christians
--Saw & heard outstanding believers

2-Conversion--On the Damascus Road
--Personal confrontation by the ascended Christ
--Singled out of the entourage sovereignly
--Saved as he exercised personal faith

3-Consecration
--Occurred immediately at salvation---UNUSUAL !!
--Romans 12 decision was rendered
** BODY given for the Lord to live through
** STANDARDS dictated by the Word, not the world
** MIND transformed by the Spirit
--Once-for-all decision that colored all that occurred over the next 30 years

4-This is the PUBLIC PERSON which we already know, but...
....there is more to him than what easily meets the eyes

B.-PAUL, THE MAN WE NEED TO KNOW:

1-Search more deeply if we would know Paul more intimately
2-Scripture gives a more insightful picture of him if we look for more intimate details:
I.-The BEST Of Men
II.-The WORST Of Men
III.-The PATTERN For All Mankind
3-Remember, what we read of Paul in the Pauline Epistles is AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL DETAIL - THERE Paul tells his own story
4-Prop: When we understand what Saul was before salvation, we understand the absolute necessity of salvation.
After his salvation Saul/Paul becomes a pattern for all of us in living our lives
5-Let's look more carefully at this man as revealed to us on the Sacred Pages.

I.-THE BEST OF MEN: (Phil. 3:1-11)

A.-His Profession: (Phil. 3:1-3)

1-"Rejoice in the Lord"
--Exhortation of one who is SAVED and is living it
--Circumstances will not always be favorable
--But God will not desert His own

2-"Beware of dogs, Beware of evil workers, Beware of the concision (==those who mutilate the flesh)"
--There are enemies to be faced !
--"DOGS" == Judaizers who see Jesus as Savior, but only for Israel
--"EVIL WORKERS"==Opponents of God & His gospel

--"CONCISION"==Mutilators; Jews who would **impose circumcision** on Gentile converts to Christ

3-3:3--True circumcision of the heart, which is **INWARD** (2)
--Worship God in the Spirit, not in ordinances & ceremonies
(Another rendering: "Worship by the Spirit of God")
--Rejoice in Christ as Personal Savior (i.e., GLORY in Him)
--**No confidence** in the flesh (==External privileges of every kind), or what man can do

4-How DIFFERENT this is from Saul's early life as a Jewish Pharisee

B.-His Privileges: (Phil. 3:4-5)

1-Thought his confidence could be in D O I N G.
Had to **learn to trust** what Christ had already D O N E !!

2-Privileges had made Saul PROUD ! (3:4)
Viewed as he did from a Jewish perspective before conversion

3-DETAIL of these privileges:
--Circumcized the 8th day
** Scrupulous Law keepers
** Jewish by **birth**, not a later proselyte
** Nor as an Ishmaelite circumcized in his 13th year
--Of the stock of Israel
** Descendant of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
** **Nationally** of the race of the Jews
** Not one grafted in to the Covenant people
--Tribe of Benjamin ** **Smallest** tribe of the 12
** Descended from Jacob's youngest son
** People who produced Israel's first King, Saul
** **Not** a "**LOST**" tribe in the Babylonian captivity as many were
--An Hebrew of the Hebrews
** Thoroughly schooled & committed to orthodox Judaism
** Born in the DIASPORA in Tarsus
** But **not corrupted** by Greek influences
** Vincent--"The expression implies characteristics of language & manners. He might be an Israelite & yet a child of Greek-speaking Jews: but his parents had retained their native tongue & customs, & he himself, while understanding & speaking Greek, also spoke Hebrew on occasion. Acts 21:40; 22:22." (P. 885)
--As touching the **Law**, a Pharisee--ORTHODOX
--Separated Jew
--Acts 23:1, 6

4-Considered his **heritage** one to boast about, if one were to boast in earthly advantages

C.-His Practice: (Phil. 3:6)

"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God + toward men"

1-ZEAL--A zealout for Judaism
--Proven in his persecuting followers of "THE WAY"

2-Righteousness of the **Law**--Blamless (==faultless) in his eyes
--A WORKS salvation before God
--Acts 24:16
--Rom. 10:2-3

3-Thought that he "had it all together" before God as a Jew

D.-His Possession: (Phil. 3:7-8)

1-GAIN of works religion given up as LOSS so as to become a possessor of life in Christ
2-ALL THINGS he had possessed as a Jewish Pharisee, he now viewed as "loss" compared to the excellency of the knowledge of Christ as Savior
3-Suffered loss of what had been important;
Viewed as DUNG--=Excrement; Manure
--or that which is thrown away from the table as leavings; trash
4-Gained that which cannot be lost;
ETERNAL LIFE in Christ

It is impossible to have ETERNAL LIFE for a short time ?

E.-His Position: (Phil. 3:9)

1-IDENTIFICATION with Christ--Accomplished at the instant of salvation
--Work of the Holy Spirit
--Pictured in believer baptism
--"Found in Him"
--Bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh
--INSEPARABLE from Christ forever
--What a position !!
2-Gained--NOT by law keeping
--BUT by faith in Christ (Person, not own performance
3-Righteousness which is the gift of God
--Not having any righteousness which can be called mine
--His sin put on Christ as Substitute
--Christ's righteousness put on Saul as a new creation
--Justified in the sight of a holy God

F.-His Passion: (Phil. 3:10-11)

1-Changed man before God--2 Cor. 5:17
2-Cannot help but be changed in his passion
--T R A N S F O R M E D
--Life can never be the same as it was before !
--Conversion is the beginning of a new life
3-Goal of a saved man (3:10)
--Know HIM personally; intimately
--Experience HIS power, which is resurrection power
--Fellowship in HIS suffering for the Church
--Conformed to HIS image or likeness of spirit & temper now, and to His resurrection body in due time
--Expecting to participate in the resurrection out from among the dead
4-Saul was never the same again; !
His passion became CHRIST-------Phil. 1:21

G.-POINT: The BEST MAN who ever lived needed to be saved--and was saved. Therefore, no matter how good any person thinks himself to be, he needs to be saved, as did Saul of Tarsus.

II.-THE WORST OF MEN: (1 Tim. 1:11-16)

A.-His Mercy & Grace: (1 Tim. 1:13-14)

1-Paul was a blasphemer=="Abusive, an evil speaker"
--Attributing an evil source to ... what related to Jesus

2-Paul was a persecutor
--Cast his vote for Stephen's death, and for others
--Led an inquisition in Jerusalem & its environs agains Christians
--Caused believers to be scattered from Judea
--Gained credentials to carry persecution all the way to Damascus

3-Paul was **injurious**
=="wanton & outrageous acts"
** Against the **Saints**
** Against **God** Himself as Saul touched those of CHRIST'S BODY
** 1 Cor. 12:12--"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."
** 1 Cor. 12:26--"And whether one member suffer, all members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it."
--"Every stone that bruised the body of Stephen had struck Jesus, the Lord! Every manacle, every chain that he had fastened on the wrists and ankles of the saints were laid on Jesus, the Lord! No wonder the crime of his persecutions haunted him all his days till he challenged the world to produce a greater sinner than himself."

4-Paul was granted **MERCY**=="Not receiving what he deserved"
--**Deserved** C O N D E M N A T I O N !!
--But was spared because he did these crimes in **ignorance** & in **unbelief**.
--**Spared** because God is merciful !!
--Thank God, neither Saul nor I received what our sinful nature & sinful acts warranted...
....**J U D G M E N T !!**

5-Paul was granted Grace also
== "Unmerrited favor;; "God's Riches At Christ's Expense"
--Superabounding grace that God would save such a sinner as Paul
--Channeled thru faith & love
** FAITH in Christ as Savior — Crucified Body, Shed Blood
** LOVE for the Redeemer & the redeemed

B.-His Message: (1 Tim. 1:15)

1-**Faithful** or **TRUSTWORTHY** message;
Favorite phrase of Paul in his Pastoral letters
2-Worth serious attention & trust by all who hear !!

3-"Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinners**..."
- --Messiah of Israel
- --God of eternity
- --Jesus of Nazareth
- --**PURPOSE** of Incarnation was to provide the only hope of mankind
- --We are **shut up to Jesus**.
  It is JESUS.....or.....JUDGMENT !! — NO THIRD ALTERNATIVE
- --This world is the object of God's love
- --SINNERS=="those who miss the mark"
  - ** Most comprehensive term in the N. T. for moral turning aside from right & truth
  - ** Rom. 3:23
  - ** Desperate need of mankind

4-"...of whom I am **chief**"
- --WORST man who ever lived;
  FOREMOST sinner of all
- --That is Paul's testimony by inspiration of the Holy Spir
- ----Self-description in Rom. 7:18--"I know that in me (that is in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:..."
- --Evaluation of a saved man who realistically faces the **facts** — True by inspiration of the Holy Spirit

5-Message of H O P E for all
- --Worst man of all has been saved already
- --That is **why Jesus came** to earth & the Cross
- --Since God has saved the worst already
- --All others are savable also
- --Y O U can be saved, for you are a sinner, but not as bad as one God has already saved.
- --**Hope** for all mankind!! PRAISE GOD !!!

C.-His Ministry: (1 Tim. 1:11-12, 16)

1-**Gospel** was committed to Paul's trust (1:11) — Read
- --1 Cor. 15:3-4 is the GOOD NEWS to believe
- --Given to man
- --Given by God
- --Message of **how** sinful man can be reconciled to the Holy God
- --**Provision** has already been made
- --Paul fulfilled **his stewardship** of this gospel
- --Rom. 1:14-16 — Read

2-Ministry was God's call for Paul (1:12)
- --"Enabled me" deals with performance (Acts 9:22; Phil. 4:13)
- --"Counted me faithful" deals with evaluation
- --"Putting me into the ministry" deals with his "call"; or appointment
- --**ALL** of it is of God's grace
- --Sovereignty touches the lives of human beings

3-Ministry of Paul was to be taken as **a pattern** (1:16)
- --Just as he was saved by grace
- --So also he was called to serve Jesus Christ
- --P A T T E R N for all after him to follow

** 1 Thess. 1:6-7--"And ye became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the Word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Ghost; So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia & Achaia."
** 1 Cor. 11:1--"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."
** Phil. 4:9--"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: & the God of peace shall be with you."
** 2 Tim. 3:10-14

(6)

--God expects ** Turn-around of life
** Involvement in ministry
--Any other pattern is unscriptural & abberant !

III.-THE PATTERN FOR ALL MANKIND:

A.-He Was Saved: (1 Cor. 15:5-8)

1-Others before Paul saw the Resurrected Christ (15:5-7)
--Cephas
--The Twelve
--Above 500 at one time
--James
--All of the apostles
2-Last of the Apostles to see Jesus was Paul (15:8)
3-Described his salvation as "one born out of due time"
= Before the time of Israel's national time of conversion at the end of the Great Tribulation
--Paul was a "PREMIE" !!; Born before the due date
--Late as compared to all the other Apostles
--Ill-formed in comparison to their thorough and personal instruction by the Lord Jesus
--Saved thru a VISION of Christ, as will be the Jews in the Tribulation

B.-He Was Serving: (1 Cor. 15:9-11)

"A RUNT" in size

1-"LEAST of the apostles"
--Perhaps a play on his name "Paul"=="LITTLE"
--Morelikely a low estimate of hiself because:
** Not saved during Christ's earthly ministry
** He persecuted the Church
2-"But by the grace of God, I am what I am"
--Dignity & humility joined
--What God enabled him to be is what he was
--Certainly he was a TRUE APOSTLE, though he was called separately from all others
3-Testimony of effective service
--15:10
--Did all he could to play "catch-up"
--ILLUS--Carl Scott
--Still gave the glory in it to the Lord !!

4-Ministry--15:11
--A cooperative effort
--Presenter is not the issue
** You
** Me
** Any other
--Important issues !
** BELIEVE on the Lord
** PREACH it to all you meet
--1 Cor. 3:5-10 Read
5-So should all true believers today;
We are each and all to be serving the Lord

C.-He Was Settled: (Gal. 6:11-15)

1-Not in flesh glorying (6:11-13)
--MOTIVE of the Judaizers was not the glory of God, northe welfare of the saints, but the avoidance of persecutions which follow faithful preaching of Christ
--Others would compromise truth--but not Paul !!
2-But settled in the Cross (6:14-15)
--ONLY the Cross was pre-eminent for Paul
--Any other center of attention was inadequate !
** World was accursed to Paul
** Paul was accursed to the world
** Because of IDENTIFICATION with Christ
--A CRUCIFIED CHRIST is all that matters to Paul
** Stumbling block to the Judaizers
** Rejoicing to Paul
3-Circumcision--Does not avail anything
--Neither does UNcircumcision
--Only thing of importance eternally is "A NEW CREATURE"

CONCLUSION:

A.-Paul, The Man:

1-BEST who ever lived; yet needed to be saved

2-WORST who ever lived; yet could be saved

3-PATTERN for all mankind

4-Restatement of Proposition:
When we understand what Saul was before salvation, we understand the absolute necessity of salvation

After his salvation Saul/Paul becomes a pattern for all of us in living our lives

B.-Paul, The Example To Us:

1-No man good enough to go to heaven without being saved by the New Birth through faith in Christ

2-No man bad enough to be beyond salvation reaching him & changing him radically and eternally. — ~~FRED~~ PAT BLACK of Pratt (8)

3-YOU fit in between those extremities
YOU need to be saved before it is everlastingly TOO LATE !!

4-If you are saved, it is expected that you show that salvation in a TRANSFORMED LIFE, as Paul did

5-Are you--Saved?
--Serving ??
--Settled ??

6-Receive the Lord as your Savior TODAY !!

7-Enthrone Him as LORD (== Ruler, Master) over your being now !!

#11-Wonderful
#269--I've Found A Friend
#188--Only Trust Him

6/7/87--O.K.B.C.
4/21/92-Rotorua, NZ
10/26/97-Waterman Bible Church, IL

Read Philippians 3:10-14 "I Press Toward The Mark"

Intro.---Paul had an all embracive aim which made life a great temple in which to serve the Lord who had saved him for time and for eternity.
---Near the end of his life Paul had "not attained", but could still see the need of pressing on.

I.--SINGLE-MINDEDNESS-----"THIS ONE THING I DO"
A.-Not room for two aims in life
1.-hate one & love the other if more than one is attempted
2.-A conscious, positive decision is necessary-- ILLUS - Margot Asquith tells how she once met a tramp and asked him how he decided which way he would tramp, and his answer was, "I always turn my back to the wind." That was what made him a tramp. He never had the courage to breast the wind and go courageously on in its teeth, or he would have ceased to be a tramp and have become a man.
3.-Two equal rulers in the life is an impossibility.
4.-One must DOMINATE AND CONTROL completely--must color all of life---ILLUS.-Someone once asked General Booth, who started the Salvation Army, what had been the secret of his success. He hesitated a second, and one could see tears come into his eyes and steal down his cheeks, and then he said: "I will tell you the secret. GOD HAS HAD ALL OF ME THERE WAS TO HAVE. There have been men with greater opportunities; but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart, and a vision of what Jesus Christ could do, I made up my mind that God would have all there was of William Booth. And if there is anything of power in the Salvation Army today, it is because God has had all the adoration of my heart and all the power of my will, and all the influence of my life." Thus, it can be learned from William Booth that the greatness of a man's power is in the measure of his surrender.
B.-Forgetting what is behind--
1.- Sins????---no, for they keep us humble.
2.-Success???--yes, for we are prone to rest at the oars. Forgetting successes is the only way to avoid Phariseism.
C.-How to be SINGLE MINDED
1.-Putting the past behind you
2.-Eagerly stretching forward to that which is before you.
3.-ILLUS--On the tombstone monument of James T. White, a champion climber in the Swiss Alps is this simple inscription, "HE DIED CLIMBING". He perished attempting to climb an ascent which had never been mastered. What a tribute that inscription is to him. His attitude should be ours--looking upward and pressing forward on the path of duty and of love. "He died climbing" is a fitting epitaph for a really surrendered child of God.

II.*WHAT I DO
A.-"I Press"-----ILLUS.--When Marshal Foch, that great commander of World War I, came to the close of his life, those listening to his last words heard "ALLONS"---"FORWARD". He was watching his glorious army meeting the enemy, being thrown back, and then making an heroic effort to conquer. The greatest word he ever gave, the word which put spirit & power in his soldiers and in himself, was "FORWARD".

A.-I Press

1.-not on unbroken ground---Following Christ

2.-Pressing toward a definite goal or mark--Illus.-- A student of Amherst College, soon after entering, put over the door of his dorm room the letter V. Because of it he endured all sorts of ridicule and questioning. But he paid no attention to either, nor would he disclose the secret of the letter. When his four years were over, and graduation day came, that student was appointed to be VALEDICTORIAN. Then was the mystery of the letter V revealed. That letter on the door held before him during his four years the ideal that he had set for himself. Not every boy or girl puts a letter over the coor of his college room or over the door of his house. But nevertheless, somewhere, if only in his mind, there is a letter that he pastes there and holds as an ideal. Some put up the letter "M" that stands for money. Others put up "F" for fame. Others put up "S" for SELF****or for SERVICE. It is a good idea occasionally to step outside your door and look at the letter you have put up there. Perhaps it needs changing, or perhaps it needs some rededication.

3.-Pressing toward a prize or reward---being pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

B.-Object of our doing.

1.-High-or upward-calling of God---inanswer to the call of God upon our lives. ILLUS **The story is told of a wealthy Englishman who had added to his valuable collection a rare violin which was coveted by Fritz Kreisler, the celebrated violinist. When the owner persisted in refusing to part with the instrument, Kreisler begged permission to play it just once. The opportunity was granted** and he played as only a genius can play. He forgot himself, pouring his soul into his music. The Englishman stood as one enchanted until the music ceased. When Kreisler had returned the instrument to its case, He said, "Take it, its yours. I have no right to keep it. It ought to belong to the man who can play it as you have." That was odd reasoning, to be sure, and yet it has something compelling about it. In a sense, ought not an instrument to belong to the master who can draw the finest music from it???And ought not your life and mine belong to the Master who can draw from it the most and the best????

2.-The object of our doing varies with each of us--Preacher, Housewife, business-man, machinist, farmer, postman,etc.

3.-The content of our doing should be the same--giving all of us to Christ.---ILLUS.--Robert Chapman of England & a great friend of the late George Muller of Bristol was once asked, " "Would you not advise young Christians to do something for the Lord?" "NO," was the reply, "I would advise them to do everything for the Lord."

ILLUS---There were two sons in the Taylor family in England. The older one said he must make a name for the family & he turned his face toward Parliament & honor. But Hudson Taylor, the younger, decided to give his life to the service of Christ and so turned his face toward China. Hudson Taylor, the missionary, died beloved and known on every continent. "But," says one, "when I looked in the encyclopedia to see what the other son had done, I found the words, "The brother of Hudson Taylor." Build to the glory of God and your name and your life and your memory will survive. Build for yourself and you will not abide.

ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH FOUNDING

Keynote. Phs. 3:12-14

Intro. - Past Glories
1.- Family Affair - births, mortgage burning, Ch. foundings, etc.
2.- Small Beginning - Numerically
3.- Large Beginning - Spiritually
4.- Did not count these as the ultimate, but as a springboard to attainment

I CONTRASTS - Glorious with more Glorious
A.- Glorious beginning was springboard to success
B.- Presently "on the road of life" + "pressing to the mark of the high calling of God!" illus of stubbing toe vrs. eyes on Him
1.- His will for our lives (personal)
2.- His will for our church (service)
C.- More glorious ahead when we follow God; make His will the goal to be laid hold of — the prize to be gained
* D.- Illus - Law & grace
E.- Let us not be looking to the past glory either, + its light that fades away, but ahead.

II. WHAT IN THE FUTURE?
A.- "Let us go on" from "beggardly elements", by comparision, to what God has in store for us," 'til we are come in unity of the faith + knowledge of the Son of God unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"
B. Began as a faith Work
1.- Planted as a seed of faith
2.- Watered by faithful Word
3.- Increased by God in answer to utter dependence upon Him
C.- over

C.- Future can only be accomplished in the same way.
1.- Here is the fruit of former planting
2.- It must be planted if it is to bring forth fruit - illus Jn. 12:24
3.- God's fruit demands Gods method.
a.- Salvation - "Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people"
b.- Growth - "Eat the Word"

III How?
A.- Sounding Forth the Word
1.- Each in his own place
2.- Each using God's gift to him
3.- Illus - Ep. 4:11 - 5 classes - etc.
4.- "for the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit unto all" 1Co. 12:7
B.- Purpose - Training + Outfitting
1.- Perfecting the Saints unto their work of the ministry
2.- Edifying us all.
3.- Bring us to Christ's Stature
C.- End - Witnessing
1.- that we be not carried about as children
2.- but speaking the truth in love
3.- Christ called us not to pillows of ease, but to be pillars of power

Concl: 1.- Individual responsibility
2.- Hard race, but we must run for we are bought with a price + we are Christ's

God's Constant Peace Phs. 4:5-9

Intro: A. Peace:
1-Positional---Rom. 5:1 "Therefore being justified by Faith, we have PEACE with God thru our Lord Jesus Christ." — Exhortation — "Let us live in the fact that we have..."
2-Practice is generally lacking
3-Word links believing, prevailing prayer with peace
4-Peace in the midst of war
--as a reward for victory
--no peace without war
--Christians afraid of spiritual warfare will know little of God's constant peace
5-Unsaved--Isa. 57:20-21 The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire + dirt. There is no Peace, saith my God, to the wicked"

B.-Prayer:
1-Conflict--Eph. 6:10-20 Prayer is one of the other of these at various times.
2-Equisitely tranquil experience
--conversing with God
--Spirit filled believer fellowshipping with God
--Phs. 4:5-9

I.-GOD'S PEACE GUARDS AGAINST CARE:

A.-The Curse Of Care Is Terrific:
1-Anxiety is essentially because of UNBELIEF
2-Worry kills more people than disease
3-Worry is Satan's brainchild--turns eyes off God's sufficiency
4-Worry makes wrecks of Christian lives
--mental welfare impared
--spiritual welfare impared
--physical welfare impared
--ILLUS --An ALLOY which always debases the fine metal of Christian character
5-Jesus warned HIS DISCIPLES--Mt. 6:25
--Are WE His disciples too?!!!!

B.-The Command Concerning Care:
1-"Be careful for nothing" = "In nothing be anxious"
2-Counsel---is unconditional
--covers every period of life — no exceptions
--covers every sphere of life — all dimensions
--Not just allowed to worry about SOME things
--But not to worry about ANYTHING----EVER!
3-It takes a miracle--unknown to unsaved
--impossible in the flesh
--but possible with God--Lk. 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible

C.-The Peace God Promises: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid
1-Foretold---Jn. 14:27
2-Exhorted--Lk. 12:22-23
3-Illustrated--Lk. 12:24-31
4-Explained--Phs. 4:7
--Peace--Not the stillness of death
--Not the silent stagnation of a mountain fastness
--But the Life In Motion; movement without friction
--ILLUS--Orchestra in perfect harmony with every instrument participating.
--Of God--Its only possible source
--Heaven's gift to the PRAYING BELIEVER
--James 1:17 Every good + perfect gift cometh down from the Father of Lights above

--Which Passeth Understanding
--transcending all power of conception
--Isa. 55:8-9 my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are
--Nonetheless true; Nonetheless good higher than the earth
--Only way to appreciate it is to EXPERIENCE it so are my ways
--Knowledge is good; wisdom is better; Peace Is BEST
--Shall--God promises it on His authority as "God Who cannot lie"
--Unconditional promise; no "ifs" or "buts"
--Keep--="Guard" = "Garrison"
--Figure is of a siege
--Impregnable & secure thru God's peace
--Hearts & Minds--Heart is seat of thoughts
--Thoughts are expression of heart
--ILLUS--Hearts & thoughts represent both the soil & the flowers that spring from the soil. Both are "kept" by a good gardener. So our hearts & thoughts are kept by God
--Thru Christ Jesus--Secret of the sure defense is Christ
--Communion with Him brings the experiencial peace of God into our lives
--Not alone our ally, but our sure victor
--ILLUS--Joshua 5--Captain of the Lord's Hosts
—Is He My Captain?

5-HOW OBTAINED?
--not enough to know peace is available
--must know how to get it FOR ME!!
--Let's examine the FOUR SECRETS

II.-GOD'S PEACE IS REALIZED BY PRAYER.

A.-Prayer Is **Asking** (Secret No. 1):
1-Worry about nothing, but pray about everything.
2-What we don't pray about we'll soon be worrying about or WANDERING from the Lord
3-Ps. 55:22 Cast thy burden on the Lord, + He shall sustain thee.
4-"Let your requests be known" = "strong desire directed to God
5-Doesn't promise to remove all problems, but to give PEACE in the midst of them !!!!
6-True with all our problems
7-"Take from our hearts the strain & stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace"---Whittier
-The strain & stress do the damage; not the difficulties
8-ILLUS--A brother minister of the gospel called upon one of his people who said when the visit was over that she had greatly enjoyed his call. He thought to himself, I HAVE SCARCELY SAID A WORD, AND YET SHE SAYS I HAVE DONE HER GOOD. Turning to her he inquired, "How can I have done you good, for I have scarcely said a word?" "Ah, Pastor," she replied, "YOU HAVE LISTENED SO KINDLY; you have heard all I had to say, and there are so very few who will do that." Prayer is asking God into the midst of our experience

B.-Prayer Is **Supplicating** (Secret No. 2):
1-Often more than just asking
2-Importunity prompted by urgency
3-Laying hold until the ANSWER or an ASSURANCE of the answer comes
4-ILLUS--Mrs. Phelps tells of doing dishes one day when all of a sudden, it came to her that her oldest son, working a long way

from home, was in danger. She stopped & prayed asking God to watch over Kimball, keeping him from harm. Saturday night Kimball came home for the weekend. Almost the first thing he said was: "Mother, were you praying for me about 6 o'clock Thursday evening?" She had to stop & reccollect, but remembered that it was that day & time when she had prayed so earnestly. Then he told her he was driving along the road in athunderstorm & stopped when he could not see the road. Then something told him to move on. He moved ahead a short way. Just then a terrific lightning bolt struck a large tree, & it crashed across the road right where he had first stopped. He said that he had been sure his mother had been praying for him.

C.-Prayer Is Thanksgiving (Secret No. 3):
1-Prayer should ALWAYS be LARGELY thanksgiving
- -because of God Himself
- -because of our salvation
- -because of all His benefits
- -because He hears & answers prayer

2-"Half our worries would immediately vanish away if we began to sing a psalm of praise."

3-ILLUS---Icebergs melt in tropical seas & abound in frigid water. Praise & Thanksgiving warm up our prayers & melt our problems away. --Lk. 17:11-18 — Ten Lepers

4-Heart of Loving heavenly Father is pained when THANKS are ABSENT

D.-Prayer Is Rewarding (Secret No. 4): Call unto me, & I will answer thee, & shew thee great & mighty things which thou knowest not.
1-God answers--Jer. 33:3
2-God bears burdens--1 Pet. 5:7
3-God does more than we ASK or THINK--Eph. 3:20
4-Holy interview brings results for time & eternity
5-ILLUS **Several years ago a headline read, "When the line tightened, he relaxed." With these words TIME magazine described IKE'S fishing vacation in Colorado. Nerves that were tight & tense due to the affairs of the world were soon relaxed as a lively mountain trout tugged at the President's thin nylon line. We may not all be able to fish, but we all seem to need something to loosen our tight nerves. So often even we who are the Lord's lose our temper, we shout at our children, we get jumpy, our work becomes drudgery----WHY?---We need to go fishing; fishing with the Lord. We need to spend more time with Him, the line needs to be tightened so that we can feel His pull at our heart. We need to let go of our problems & perplexities & let Him take control, and as we tighten the cord of prayer, we too will relax.

III.-GOD'S PEACE Is PRAYERFULLY MAINTAINED:

A.-By Forbearance (4:5): ("Moderation") Purposeful forbearance
1-Reasonable consideration for the claims of others
2-Kindness of attitude
3-Because the Lord is at hand--
- -to answer prayer
- -omnipresent--Mt. 28:20 Lo, I am with you always
- -coming soon

B.-By Thinking That Dwells On Worthy Things:(4:8): Focused
1-True things--not just sordidly factual
--but accurate things that unveil the face of God
2-Honorable things--worthy of reverence
--that make the character of men & women to

resemble the imposing proportions of a cathedral

3-Just things--satisfying of the standards of the Almighty
4-Pure things--spotless & without blemish
5-Lovely things--morally agreeable & pleasant
6-Good report--not "reported of"
--but which speak goodness themselves
7-Virtuous things--excellent
8-Praiseful things--commendable
9-ILLUS--The CORRAL of christian thought is made up with these as the extreme posts. Gives all the room we need for our thought life if we act as children of light.

C.-By Doing That Follows A Worthy Example(4:9a):
1-Varied ministry--learned --heard
--received --seen
2-These are commended & are enforced by a godly life
--no pretence at perfection
--but his direction is indicated & implored upon them
3-ILLUS--I looked at a florist's shop the other day, & I saw a great many packets of seeds. In the middle of the window there was an exquisitely beautiful plant in flower, & attached to it were these words, "Grown from our seed."-------Blessed indeed is that example that brings forth from good seed, a good flower for God.

D.-By God's Presence (4:9b):
1-Peace of God by prayer
2-God of peace by practice
3-Based on the PROMISES of God
4-ILLUS--I had a dear friend whose company I esteemed, but of a sudden he did not come to see me. He stayed away, & as I knew did not cease to like me, I wondered why. At last I found that this dear brother had taken it into his head that he might outrun his welcome: he had read those words of Solomon, "Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbor's house; lest he be weary of thee, & so hate thee." I admired my friend's prudence, but I labored hard to make him see that Solomon knew nothing of me, & that I was more wearied when he stayed away than when he came. I hope he makes me an exception to a very sensible rule---------But never get that thot into your head concerning your God. Will you weary my God also??? YOU MAY WEARY HIM BY RESTRAINING PRAYER, BUT NEVER BY ABOUNDING IN SUPPLICATION. Abide with your God. & cry to Him day & night, & let this be the music of your whole life, "Whereunto I may continually resort."

Concl: A.-Peace Of God:
1-When no anxiety
2-But much prayer, supplication & thanks
3-THEN garrisoned by God

B.-God Of Peace:
1-When thoughts & deeds are God-controlled
2-Then His presence will be felt.

Westbrae 1/10/65-PM-
Hymns: Sweet Peace, The Gift of God's Love #283
Wonderful Peace. #287

GOD DOETH ALL THINGS WELL

CHARLES L. CUMMER

I do not always know what lies before me,
Or what of trial or test may be in store;
My steps are ordered, God will do the choosing,
He knows the way I take—need I know more?
I do not know the reason for each testing;
The lessons I must learn, I cannot tell,
Or why I'm led through valleys deep and lonely—
I only know He doeth all things well.

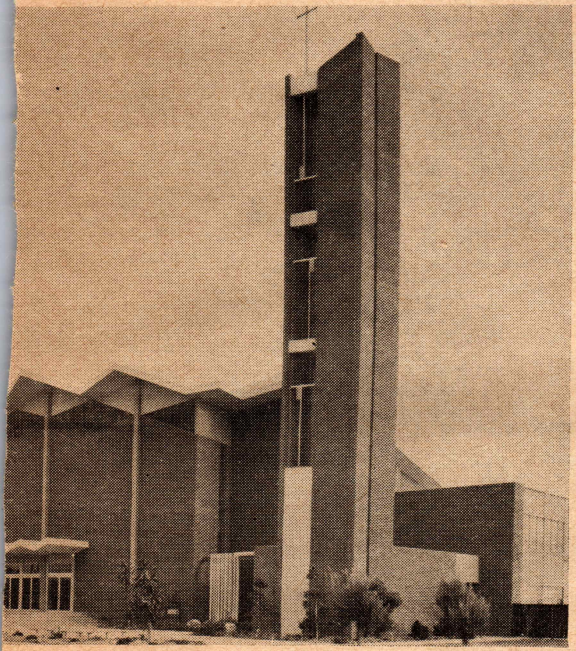
If the path I walk seems steep and rugged,
And I must labor long to reach the goal,
There's always One close by my side to help me;
He brings sweet rest and comfort to my soul.
And from the pages of God's Book before me,
He speaks the words that all my fears dispel,
And though I do not know the why nor wherefore,
I can be sure He doeth all things well.

Then I will rest in Him, and take fresh courage,
And trust His promise not to leave me e'er—
New strength supplied to carry on the battle,
New hope that I the victor's crown shall wear.
It is enough to be of God beloved,
To have the Lord within my heart to dwell,
To have the peace that passeth understanding,
Content to know He doeth all things well.



Conference missionary map at Bethel College and Seminary. Eight

nce church began with a meeting in a home in Long Beach,
947. Today it has a Sunday school enrollment of 1800.



Phs. 4:4-9

OUR HERITAGE

Intro. - Rejoice - Always
1.- Only on the basis of true Peace.

Forbearance - known
1.- Purifying hope

I. - Anxiety gone to Lord — I Pet. 5:7, I Jn. 4:18

- Prayer
- Supplication — Requests to God
- with thanksgiving

illus - disciples in boat on Galilee

II Peace OF God

- ~~Passed~~ past understanding, but real
- Guards the heart — citadel of affection
- Guards the mind — seat of mental concern — place of intellectual rest + peace

Col 1:21

- Only through X is this possible

illus - X + disciples in boat on Galilee - praise

① Results
- honest
- just
- pure
- lovely
- good report
- virtue

This is the Way of true peace WITH God — Accept the peace OF God

② "learned", "received", "heard", "seen"
Experience follows the knowledge of the Facts

Fact then Feeling

③ Imitate Paul + the God of Peace shall be with you

III How to Imitate + gain Peace

Peace – Root
Rest – Fruit

Mt. 11:27-30

1.– Invitation to all
2.– Unburden Self
3.– Rest in X is result
} Mind

4.– Take X – Easy
5.– Learn – Profitable
} heart

Concl. This is the Xn heritage.

Col. 3:15-17 1.– Peace with God on basis of Peace of God as secured in Christ

~~2.– Live in the light of who~~
We are.

Whittier "As on the Sea of Galilee,
The Christ is whispering 'PEACE!'"

Hymn – Jesus Calls Us

"GOD'S PEACE IN YOUR LIFE" Phil. 4:1-9
"MENU FOR THE MIND" Read I Cor. 3:1-23 (1)

INTRO:

A.-Life Has Problems:

Did you see the cartoon in a national magazine which pictured a man coming home after a busy day at work all worn out? He flops in a chair & his wife asks him, "What happened to you; what's the problem? He exhaustedly replies, "What a day this has been! The computer broke down & we all had to think!"

Not only do people not want to work, but also they don't want to think. The reason some folks get lost in thought is because it is such unfamiliar territory to them.

The problem of our thought patterns is one of grave proportion. Every other hospital bed in the U.S. is occupied by someone who has a mental problem of some sort.

B.-Book Of Philippians Has Answers:

1-Written by Paul--Near the end of 1st imprisonment
--Phs. 1:12-13
--From a house arrest incarceration of 3 years

2-Themes: --JOY, though prisoner of Nero
** "Joy"--5 times
** "Rejoice"--11 times
--Tells the Philippians who were "free" from any bondage to "CHEER UP"
*--Saw himself as "the prisoner of the Lord" (Eph.4:1 but not without a ministry because of bondage
--GOSPEL-----Not what we'll pursue today

3-Occasions of Paul's writing:
--(a) "Thank-you" for their gift (4:14-17)
--(b) Return of Pastor Epaphroditus to their midst
--(c) PROBLEM in the Church between 2 Christian ladies
** A blot on the fair Philippian fame
** The presence of jealousies in that Mission Ch
** Leading to DIVISIONS among the brethren

4-Phil.4:1--"THEREFORE" looks back to Chapter 3
--The POWER of God in raising Jesus & giving hope
--The PROMISES of God among the brethren

PROP: To be right we must think rightly

I.-THE PROBLEM IN THE PHILIPPI BIBLE CHURCH:

(4:1-3)

A.-Those Brethren IN Philippi:

INT How does this relate to daily life?

1-Who they were:
--"Brethren"----Reminds us of Acts 9:17-Ananias "came to" in Dama ?
--"Dearly beloved"--TWICE repeated in 4:1

2-What they were to Paul
--"My joy":::::PRESENT relationship } FRUIT of his labors
--"My crown":::FUTURE relationship }
** Olympic laurels are the comparison
** I Thess. 2:19-"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Chris at His coming? For ye are our glory & jo

(2)

3-What they were to do---"STAND FAST"
--NOT a "mighty army" to battle & seek to triumph
--Rather, we are to "Hold the fort".
*--Reason is that VICTORY has already been won at the Cross
--Our calling is to declare & defend the truth
** Eph. 6:11, 13, 14.
** 1 Cor. 15:58--"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

"Stand"

B- Those Bottle-Necks In Philippi:

1-TWO OFFENDERS--Phil 4:2
--WHO they were:
** Euodia & Syntyche
** Women in the Church along with Lydia
** Perhaps Deaconesses, or perhaps part of the Congregation met in their homes
** Experienced & Mature in the Lord
** "Labored" (wrestled) alongside Paul in the ministry in earlier days
** SAVED women, but NOT RECONCILED to one another
--Women's Contributions ++ Their Sons
++ Their Services
++ Their Songs
++ Their Supplications-
++ GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS
--What Euodia & Syntyche needed:
"THAT THEY BE OF ONE MIND"--
**Phs. 2:2-5
**To be saved does not make one or another any less capable of FLESHLY MANIFIESTATIONS
--Paul BESEECHES these women, because he has found thorns in his "joy and crown"

Insert Redpath's picturing of Euodias + Syntyche

2-The OBLIGATIONS Of Others--
--Phil. 4:3
--Paul INTREATS (="asks friends for a favor")
--"True yokefellow" ** Some have postulated Paul's wife — NO
** Others think "Yokefellow" should not be translated, but that it is a proper name--"SYZYGUS"
** More likely a reference to Pastor Epaphroditus, who is soon to return
** We really do not know who it refers to
--"HELP" ++ Ladies don't seem to be able to settle it by themselves
*++ OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE is essential — HELP!
++ Gal. 6:1--"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed + in truth."

-HOW?! ** Obedience to the truth of God's Word
** Experience of LOVE toward the saints
John 13:34-35
1 John 3:18; 4:7

BADGE of Hos.

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God + knoweth God."

--Other helpers (Phs. 4:3)--ANYONE::EVERYONE to heal the breach.

I can't resist just picturing in my mind one Sunday morning, Euodias and Syntyche, who previously had come to church arm in arm, were found coming separately. One was coming down one aisle and one another, and they were both looking positively miserable. And you know at the end of the service a few ladies came up to Syntyche and said, "You're not looking very happy today. What's the matter with you?"

"Oh," she said, "it's Euodias, it's so sad about Euodias. I'm so sorry about it."

"Well, what happened?"

"Well, quite frankly, she's been very unkind and I feel that she hasn't treated me fairly."

"What a shame!" the others say, "can that really be true?"

"Yes," says Syntyche.

"Well, let's get together and have a little prayer meeting about it, shall we?"

"Oh, you are kind to think of me like this," says Syntyche, "thank you so much. Come home with me after the evening service tonight and we'll have a little prayer together."

And so they go home that night and they get down and say, "O Lord, do deal with Euodias about this, it's so unkind."

But look, lo and behold, on the other side of the church Euodias is looking miserable and somebody has come up to her.

"Euodias, what's the matter?"

"Oh, it's Syntyche. You know, she said something about me the other day that was absolutely . . ."

"What! She did? She couldn't have done . . ."

"Oh, but she did. It wasn't true."

"You heard her say . . ."

"No, I didn't hear her say it but somebody told me she said it and that's enough for me. And it wasn't true and I feel so bad about it."

"Well, I think you do feel bad about it. What can we do? Let's go and pray together."

"All right, we'll meet together in my home tonight."

So off they go. And lo and behold heaven looks down upon a church born in a prayer meeting at a riverside, the first fruits of the gospel of Europe, and sees two prayer meetings being held after evening service. *And both of them praying that the sin might be removed from the other.* Oh, the tragedy when that happens in Christian work!

There is only one thing to do where two Christians are out of fellowship with one another. It is the responsibility of the one who is sure he is right and the other is wrong, to go to his brother, or she to go to her sister, and deal with it at Calvary and put it under the protection of the blood of Jesus before the canker ruins the testimony. It can happen so easily.

3-The **Obvious Points:**
--"**BOOK OF LIFE**" ** Names of **both** Euodia & Syntyche are **in** the Lamb's BOOK
** Salvation is our basis of hope & full expectation
** **Inclusion** in that BOOK **depends upon worth**--NOT OUR worth, but HIS!!
--**Solution** to believer-problems is "**IN THE LORD**"
** Phil. 4:1, 2, 4
** Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, + in the power of His might."
** **164** times in the N.T. we read of "in Christ"
** Moule--"'**IN HIM**' there is really no room for envy & retaliation & 'the unhappy desire for becoming great', & the eager combat for our own opinion as such." (P.223 224)
--When believers are **not** "OF **ONE MIND**"
** Said of the spiritual (1 Cor. 2:16) that they are of one mind
NB → *** **THEY suffer**
** The LOCAL **CHURCH** suffers
** The **TESTIMONY** of Jesus Christ is defamed
** J.D.Pentecost--"If the Lord is in control, there cannot be division." (P. 176)
*** **DIVISIVENESS** has only **one source**: ! **CARNALITY**--acc. to 1 Cor.3:1-4

II.-THE PRESCRIPTION FOR PHILIPPI BIBLE CHURCH: (4:4-9)

A.-UNFAILING JOY--Phs. 4:4:

1-**Theme** of the book
--**Joy** (5 times) & **Rejoice** (11 times) (3:1)
--3:1-3 also
--**GLOOM** is the unsaved one's view of Christianity
--**JOY** is **God's provision** for us
2-Joy.....In Spite of **FETTERS** of a Roman prison
3-Joy.....In spite of **FUTURE** that was **not known** as Paul awaited **trial** & didn't know how it would go
4-"**IN THE LORD**"--Find your joy, your satisfaction; your source of joy, your sense of contentment **in the LORD!**
--Make **H I M** the **center** of your life
--Ps. 16:8--"I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved."
5-**How often** should this joy be mine ??
* **A L W A Y S !!**
--**Paul** is the **example** in Acts 16:25 "And at midnight Paul + Silas prayed + sang praises unto God: + the prisoners heard them."
--**ANTIDOTE** of **JOY**
** To subtle **error** (3:1-3)
** To **self-will** (4:4)

B.-UNENDING SELF-DISCIPLINE--Phs. 4:5:

1-**The Exhortation**
--Rejoicing will entail **DISCIPLINE** & **SELF-CONTROL**
--We don't follow a path of obedience by **chance**, but only **by choice**! --**Y I E L D E D N E S S !!**

--Reaction of the WILL — It takes making a DECISION!
--Complete commitment is essential to consistent living
--YIELDEDNESS -----Ready to give up our rights !!
--J O Y---|Jesus First
|Others next
|Yourself last; that's the way to spell JOY.

2-The Extension
-"unto all men"
-GOALS of our lives-----Ps. 27:8-9

"When Thou saidst, SEEK YE MY FACE; my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek. Hide not Thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: Thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation."

3-The Encouragement:
-IMMINENT RETURN---------Expectan
-IMMEDIATELY AT HAND-----Experien
** Paul's companion, Epaphrodi
** Paul's soldier was chained
** ANOTHER was also in that prison w/ Paul
** Dan. 3:25 "... Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, & they have no hurt; & the form of the 4th is like the Son of God".
** Moule--"The Lord is near" as if thinking of His divine presence" (P.)
** Whatever your circumstance, Let HIM be your Joy!

C.-UNRUFFLED PEACE--Phi. 4:6-7

1-As a legacy--From Christ--John 14:27 "My peace"
--By the Spirit--Gal. 5:22 - FRUIT

2-As a GARRISON
-Keeper of both the HEART and also the MIND
-Isa.26:3--"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in Thee."

3-Preliminary steps we can take:

(a) "CAREFUL FOR NOTHING"
*-It is a command
--NO ANXIOUS CARE !!
*-Worry is just as much of a sin as theft or adultery
--NO DISTRACTION by any "thing"
--I Pet. 5:7-Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you
*-Mt. 6:25-----** See the "Therefore" in it
** The Servant's MASTER is responsible for his servant's needs
** Dan. 3:16-18
--We belong to HIM, praise His name!!

"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, & the body more than raiment"?

(b) "PRAYERFUL IN EVERYTHING"
-"What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer"
-ONLY for the christian----and one that's in fellowship
--Do we not frequently nurse our depression by failing to remember the breadth of the invitation & injunction--"IN EVERYTHING by prayer & supplication..."
-Wide range for prayer
** "by prayer"--PRAYER IN GENERAL--Talking w/ God
** "and supplication"--PRAYER IN PARTICULAR--Depending on God for a needed solution
** "your requests"--PRAYER IN DETAIL--Item by item

(c) "THANKFUL FOR ANYTHING"
--Oh, how remiss we are to say: "THANK YOU" to our Lord
--Thanks for positive blessings
--Thanks for negative blessings
--A thankful spirit is a real contributor to a spirit of peace/ Eph. 5:20 - "Giving thanks always for all things unto God + the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

4-The Peace of God
--Follows ** Peace with God FIRST (Col. 1:20 & Rom. 5:1)
BUT* Prayer precedes Peace acc. to context
--"God promises this unruffled calm, because it is a possible experience. In spite of all the anxieties & perplexities of the hour..." (Guy King, P. 112)
--Can't understand it... ...but it's real !!!
--ONLY protection for mind & heart
--Ezra 7:12--"Perfect peace, and at such a time."

B--UNBLEMISHED LIFE--Phil. 4:8-9:
1-Think right--Phs. 4:8 — READ IT!
--Subject for reasoning & meditating
--Moule--"Let RIGHT in all its practical, all its noble forms, be the subject-matter of your considering & designing activities within." (P. 230)
--Area of Satanic attack is the MIND !!
--"You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you don't have to let them make a nest in your hair," St. Augustine + Martin Luther
--2 Cor. 10:5
--These are PAGAN VIRTUES, but still worthy of attention
--Add them to the FRUIT of the Spirit
--They make a good CORRAL for our thoughts
--Otherwise...defilement thru the thought life

THOT LIFE
("As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he")

"Casting down imaginations, + every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, + bringeth into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

2-Socrates (400 B.C.) "Let me know what you are thinking about today, & I will tell you what you will (be) tomorrow."

3-THE DETAILS of "Thinking Right" from Phil. 4:8
(a) TRUE--Not "natural" to man
--Jer. 17:9--"The heart is deceitful above all things & desperately wicked; who can know it."
--Ps. 58:3--"We go astray as soon as we be born, speaking lies."
--The only thing we can be assured of in this life is the Word of God, the Bible--IT IS TRUTH !
--The truth upon which our mind feeds is the truth concerning God
--Communion with Him thru His Word.

FORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

(b) HONEST == "Being worthy of reverence"
--Honesty is a commodity seldom seen today:
** U.S. Government officials--Michael Deaver
** Wall Street--Ivan Boesky
** Charleston Mayor--Mike Roark

ILLUS--There was a certain community into which a baker moved. He set up his business & wanted to make his bread the best possible. He sought out a farmer & decided to buy all of his butter there while the rancher bought all his bread from the new baker. This seemed to be a happy relationship until one day the farmer noted that the pound loaves of bread he was purchasing were no longer the same size, but were getting smaller. He was so upset at the thought of being cheated that he took the baker into court.

The judge heard the evidence & ordered that a loaf be brought into court & weighed. Sure enough, the bread was much less than a pound in weight. The baker was called to account for his actions, electrifying the jurists with this explanation: "When I came to this town, I decided to buy all my butter in one pound cakes from the farmer. In fact, I used them as my standard of measurement for my one-pound loaves of bread. So, your honor, if my bread is short weight, it's simply because, first of all, friend farmer has been cutting me down on the weight of his butter."---THAT's quite an illustration of H O N E S T Y !!

(c) JUST--Far more than mere JUSTICE
--Encompasses WHAT IS R I G H T !!
** Individual heart right with God
** Fairness & equity between men
** Absence of grudges or wrong actions
--Fulfillment of duties toward God & men according to that which is RIGHT !!

(d) PURE--Much of our world is dirty & sordid; contaminated !!
--Ecology is polluted
--Minds are baraged by beer commercials & hard rock music on Television
--Magazines & newspapers carry pictures that are borderline (or over it) pornographic
--ONE LOOK can defile!
--The only way to be pure is to have the mind CLEAN & PURE is by the Holy Spirit using the Word of God in your heart
--ILLUS--Over on the southeastern coast of England, there is a place known as ST. MARGARET'S BAY which has a shoreline completely covered by the sea at high tide. This includes a well, or spring, right along the shore. One would think the water which issues from it would be bitter & salty. Instead it is always fresh & clear. The reason is simply that the well itself is constantly fed from streams which flow from above. Our lives can be PURE like that, although they may be washed over with the things of this world, if our lives are fed from a flow which comes from above.

(e) LOVELY--Used here uniquely in the N.T.
--Meaning=="To make it a practice to keep looking for the best in people"
== Pleasing; Agreeable; Toward love

(f) Of GOOD REPORT--Opposite of Gossip
--Prov. 6:16-19 ** A lying tongue
** Most of these sins have to do with TALK that tears others down

ILLUS--The word "GOSSIP" actually in the original was two words: "GOD SIB". It meant "related to God". This was used in reference to someone who would be your sponsor at baptism. Before you were placed in the waters, during this ordinance, your "GOD SIB" would get up and give a good word of testimony about you. This, you can see was someone who knew all about you.

* The term has degenerated today into "GOSSIP", and no longer is it someone who knows all about you, but rather someone who TELLS all about you.
--Gossip is a terrible thing !!
--Bible tells us that the things which are of good report == that which has a good ring to it, should occupy our thinking

(g) Any VIRTUE...any PRAISE:
--Thoughts can liberate & free us
--Thoughts can bind & enslave us
--What we choose to think on changes us inexorably
--Dr. Karl Meninger--"You are not what you think you are, but you are what you think."
--Thoughts of our minds HOLD US in their grasp, whether for good or for evil.
--ILLUS--Legend tells us the story of an accomplished blacksmith in the long ago who boasted he could make chains no one else would ever be able to break. And contrariwise, he could break anyone else's chains because of both his strength & their inferiority. People would bring him the chains other blacksmiths had forged. Takin but a moment, he would look through the metal pieces, carefully examining each link. Generally he could find quickly that there was one link easily to be snapped and broken. In the course of time, he did something to displease his king, & was ordered for punishment to be bound by chains in the public place. This didn't bother him, for he laughed within himself with scorn. He knew when they had left he would simply go through the chains, finding the always available weak link to be broken & then set himself free. After he had been fastened securely & the soldiers had gone, he started shifting through the chains. The first time he had no concern, but as he examined them a second time he was brought to the stark realization that very cleverly they had bound him with his own chains, the ones he himself had made so perfectly

(h) SO IT IS with thoughts that are not true, honest, just, pure, lovely & of good report. We may think we can escape the effects of our thoughts, but sooner or later we learn that we have been bound by them in a deathlike grip

(i) The "H O W" of your thought life:
(1) "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jes

(2) WHERE is this found ??--WRITTEN in the Bible
--RECORDED in our bodies also

(3) The Apostle Paul, although he wrote from prison confinement, knew the secret of real freedom of thought

(j) Review--THINK RIGHT

**True	**Lovely
**Honest	**Of good report
**Just	**Virtue
**Pure	**Praise

--Thought life is the wellspring of deed life, and that leads to...

4-DO RIGHT in your ACTION LIFE (Phil. 4:9)
--"Those things"------as recorded in 4:8
--"Learned"
"Received") ==PRECEPTS--Careful instruction by Paul
"Heard"
--"Seen"==EXAMPLE--Concrete illustration in Paul's life
--"DO" == PRACTICE--Commanded as the way of blessing
--"And the God of peace shall be with you"--COMFORTING PROMISE !!

5-J.D. Pentecost--"No one can receive truth from God without assuming a responsibility for the truth that he has been taught." (The Joy of Living, P. 207)

CONCLUSION:

A.-Our Observation:

1-Times & circumstances change across the centuries
2-Problems and solutions remain VERY MUCH THE SAME !!
3-Names are changed....to protect the guilty
4-Principles and prescriptions are TIMELESS

WOMEN in Phil. Just as likely to be men today.

--CORPORATELY ** Deal with the offenders!!
** Firmly
** Lovingly
** Privately
**Expectantly
** Biblically

--PERSONALLY ++ Live for the Lord wholeheartedly
++ Follow the Divine prescription
** Unfailing joy
** Unending self-discipline
** Unruffled peace
** Unblemished life
++ HOW ??--Phil. 4:8-9

B.-Our Encouragement:

1-Message for each one of us here
--Peace OF God in you by salvation
--God OF PEACE with you in joy and victory
2-Decided response is needed !!

C.-Your Decision:

"I am just one person...." (See page opposite P. 1260 my Bible)

"I am only one, but I am one. (9)
I can't do everything,
But I can do something.
Because I cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to do something.
But what I can do, I will do
By the grace of God and for His
Glory"

(Author Unknown)

5/2/76 Calvary, Columbus. (1) More About Jesus #356
1/20/80 Mt. Tabor, Beckley (2) Like A River Glorious #485
1/27/80 O.K.B.C. Pratt (3) Wonderful Peace #287
12/6/87 O.K.B.C.
12/27/87 Calloway Bapt Ch, MD
1/11/98 - Faith Missionary Bapt. Ch., St. Albans
6/14/98 - Haddonsville, Scotland
8/22/98 - Grace Gospel Ch, Beaver WV
8/26/98 - Calloway Heights Com. Ch., Beckley, WV
7/10/99 - Brethren Assembly, Dunedin, NZ. (Caversham)

INTRO:

A.-When Contentment Is ABSENT:

"I walk up & down, thinking I am happy, but knowing I am not." So sighed the famed author, Charles Lamb

Jay Gould, the multi-millionaire, confessed, "I am the most miserable man on earth."

In recent years the world has been shocked by tragic deaths of popular people--John F. Kennedy
--Martin Luther King
--Robert F. Kennedy
--Janis Joplin
--Bruce Lee
-Princess Dianne
-Michael Kennedy
-Sonny Bono
-John Kennedy, Jr

What's wrong with life, anyway? Are we put here to be hopeless, frustrated & filled with despair?

THE BIBLE gives the answer. When God made the world, including man, He looked on His creation and saw that it was GOOD! God created man to be joyful, satisfied & in communion with his Creator. Then sin entered the picture. Discontent reared its ugly head. And from that day to this, comparatively few people have rediscovered how to live a CONTENTED LIFE!

Dairy cattle from one famed compay have been described as "contented." But seldom, if ever, is a person described as "contented." Perhaps you're wondering: IS IT POSSIBLE TO LIVE A CONTENTED LIFE?

B.-When Contentment Is PRESENT:

"YES", comes the answer from a man who lived such a life. He was not a celebrity, a millionaire, or a popular politician. He did not write his essay on contentment from a penthouse or a private yacht.

Rather, it was from a dark, damp dungeon cell in a Roman prison that this man, Paul the Apostle, wrote this triumphant declaration of contentment: "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Phs.4:11

Commenting on this verse, Rev. Frances Hurst has written: "Contentment is a matter of the will. Paul said, 'I am resolved...' Many people are determined to be unhappy. No matter what or how much they have, they want something else or something more. Contentment does not rest on social approval or acceptance. Paul could be happy if he were accepted or rejected. Most people are miserable unless others appreciate & praise them.

Contentment does not depend on the satisfaction of physical appetites. Whether hungry or full, Paul could draw upon spiritual resources rather than material resources for happiness. Contentment does not depend upon material possessions. Paul was content to 'abound' or to 'suffer need

'To suffer need' refers to material possessions even **below** the **necessity level**. **Many have found** to their sorrow that **the more** material possessions they acquire, **the unhappier** they become. (2)
NOW LET'S FASHION **A FORMULA** for contentment that will improve our adjustment to life.

C.-Our Message:
1-Outline: I.-The CONCERN Of The Philippians: (4:10, 14-19)
II.-The CONTENTMENT Of The Apostle: (4:11-13)
2-**Prop:**--**The QUESTION**--**What** would it take to **make you REALLY CONTENTED??**
** Lots of money??
** Health....Youth?? • Enjoyable
** A happy home ?? • Employment?
** Many other answers ... • **FAMILY**
--**The ANSWER**--Many have **part** or even **all** of these, & YET they are **not** contented
--TRUE CONTENTMENT **goes beyond** what a per= son **HAS**. It is more, what he **IS**!!
Make Christ **PRE-EMINENT** in your life for a **CONTENTMENT** in daily experience

I.-THE CONCERN OF THE PHILIPPIANS---(Phs. 4:10, 14-19)

A.-Their Gifts:
1-**Characteristics** of various **N.T. churches**
--ROME--Conspicuous for its **FAITH**
--EPHESUS--Remembered for its **HARD WORK** (Rev. 2:2-3)
--CORINTH Stands out for its **DIVISIONS** & **MORAL LAXITY**
--THESSALONICA--Concerned about our Lord's **COMING**
*--PHILIPPI--"The Church that **REMEMBERED**" & **cared for** Paul's needs.
** **Attached** to Paul as their Founder
** **Appreciative** of his life & teachings
** **Affection** was deep & heart-felt
** **NOT DISAPPOINTED** in him over the years
** **Attempted** to **alleviate his needs** with monetary gifts
2-"**Now** at the last **your care of me** hath flourished again"
--Figure of speech of a **shrub** after long-winter-dormancy
NOW FLOWERS FORTH in its spring profusion
--**FIRST GIFT** ** **10-12 years earlier**
** **2 Cor. 8:1-4**
+ Gave **themselves** first
+Then gave **their gifts**
+-Out of their **DEEP POVERTY** !

--RIGHT to expect **ample support (1 Cor. 9:5-14)
***MORAL RIGHT (9:5-7)--Support from his ministry as other Apostles & christian work- ers did from local church offerings
***LEGAL RIGHT (9:8-12)--General principle set forth from the Old Testament.
***HISTORICAL RIGHT (9:13)--Experience of O.T. Priests
*** **Conclusion (9:14)**
--**Another gift** sent **now** as evidence of a sense of **con- tinuing obligation** to Paul

3-"Wherein ye were careful, but ye lacked opportunity" (3)
--In recent years they'd not known his NEED
--In recent years they'd not known his LOCATION
--NOW they knew BOTH
--And....they took immediate action!
*Gal. 6:10--"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

4-Part of their FRUIT
- Character & holiness--Mt. 7:16-20; Gal. 5:22-23
- Soulwinning--John 4:36; 15:16; Col. 1:4-6 = CONVERTS
- GIVING--Phil. 4:17; Rom. 15:28

CONDUCT

5-Sweet-smelling sacrifice to God--4:18
--Heb. 13:16

"But to do good + to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

B. Paul's Joy:

1-"I rejoiced greatly in the Lord"
--Paul appreciated their care for him
--Paul was glad for their meeting of his needs
--But his J O Y is "in the Lord"
--Circumstances are not what made Paul "tick", or be "ticked-off"
--"GREATLY" shows the superabundance of his rejoicing

2-"IN THE LORD" (13 uses in Philippians)
--1:1--"saints in Christ Jesus"
--1:13--"bonds in Christ
--2:5--"this mind...in Christ Jesus"
--2:19--"trust in the Lord Jesus"
--2:24--"trust in the Lord"
--3:1--"Rejoice in the Lord"
--3:3--"Rejoice in Christ Jesus"
--3:14--"Mark...in Christ Jesus"
--4:1--"Stand fast in the Lord"
--4:2--"Same mind in the Lord"
--4:4--"Rejoice in the Lord"
--4:10--"Rejoice in the Lord greatly"
--4:13--"All things through (in) Christ"

3-ILLUS--2 Sam. 23:14-17--When David was a fugitive from the Philistines, he was overheard by several of his men to wish for a cool drink of water from the well of Behtlehem, & 3 of his men broke thru the lines & brought some to him. OVERCOME by such devotion, David couldn't drink it, but poured it out as a sacrifice of Thanksgiving to God.
SO WITH PAUL expressing his great joy at the care of the Philippians toward him in this time of his need & distress in prison.

C. Our Examples:

1-Philippians in GIVING--4:10; 4:17-18
--Sacrificially
--To meet a need
--Out of a heart of love
--To gain fruit to our account before God
--A sacrifice that is "acceptable, well-pleasing to God."

Showed HOW THEY CARED!

2-Philippians in RECEIVING--Promise of God (4:19)
--ALL YOUR NEED:
** Material needs
** Spiritual needs
** Social needs
** Emotional needs
** Literally, "every kind of your need"
--Up alongside "my God", our need does not seem so great !!
--"according to His riches",
--NOT, "out of His riches"

3-Paul in RECEIVING--Thankful, but not grasping
--Gracious & appreciative, but not fawning
--Most concerned for the Philippian believers' spiritual progress

II.-THE CONTENTMENT OF THE APOSTLE-----(Phs. 4:11-13):

A.-The Spoilers Of Contentment: (4:11-12)

1-Paul could bear EITHER poverty or plenty with an equability of spirit. NEITHER disturbed his balance of feelings

2-We naturally think, all of us, that we could bear wealth better than poverty
--Observation & Scripture tell us the contrary
--It takes a very steady hand to carry a FULL CUP
--Want/Content
--Abased/ Abound (like a river; run low--run over)
--Full/ Hungry
--Abound/ Suffer need
--"in whatsoever state I am" (circumstance)
--Paul was not content WITH his imprisonment, but he was content IN it
--INDEPENDENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES Because fully yielded to the Lord
** Many charges in the Scriptures to the RICH to be not highminded or to trust in uncertain riches
** Among the poor we find a much greater proportion of the poor uninjured by poverty than of the rich uninjured by their riches

3-"CONTENT"
--Opposite of covetousness
--The reason material things can never make a man content is that a man is never able to get enough of them to satisfy him
--ILLUS--John D. Rockefeller was asked "How much money does it take to make a man satisfied?" His reply was:---"JUST A LITTLE MORE!" MORE!"
--No satisfaction in THINGS
--LK. 12:15--"And He (Jesus) said unto them, Take heed, & beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not of the abundance of the things which he possesseth."
--ONLY JESUS can provide satisfaction & contentment!!

4-ILLUS--Lord Congleton overheard one of his servants say, "Oh, if I only had Five Pounds, I would be perfectly

content!" He thought the matter over & decided he's like to see someone "perfectly content". So, he went into the kitchen and handed the servant a Five Pound Note. She thanked him profusely. He left the kitchen, but paused outside the door & listened. As soon as she thought he was out of earshot, the woman complained bitterly: "WHY ON EARTH DIDN'T I SAY TEN POUNDS ??"

* --ATTITUDES that are wrong are the spoilers of contentment!

B. The Secret Of Contentment! (4:11-12)

1- "Content" --Comes from 2 words that mean SELF-SUFFICIENT
* --Independent of circumstances
--Repose of heart
--Socrates: "Who is the wealthiest man?"---"He that is content with least, for contentment is nature's well."
--Contentment is PARADISE REGAINED!
** Everywhere
** In all things

* 2- Scriptures --Heb. 13:5-6
--1 Tim. 6:6-10
--Luke 3:10-14
--2 Cor. 12:7-10
Read these — From back of outline

3- Johnstone--"In the religion of the Bible alone, which gives the soul the knowledge of the living God as an object of love & confidence, is found a motive power strong enough to enable a man to struggle successfully with his natural tendencies to discontent. Nothing else can inbreathe a spirit of true rest." (Philippians, P. 396)

4- Paul says: "I HAVE LEARNED" (4:11)
"I AM INSTRUCTED" (4:12)
* --I'm glad it wasn't gained by revelation, because that has stopped
NB → --Something YOU AND I can learn also!
--Contentment is not a matter of what we HAVE or DON'T HAVE!!
→ --"I have been taught the secret"=="I have been initiated"
WEALTHY ← WEALTHY backgrounded Saul has become the Paul who can rejoice "in whatsoever state I am"
TURN TO + READ * ILLUS --Plenty---or---Poverty---are alike to him *
--God uses circumstances to deal with our souls
--Deut. 8:1-3--
--Johnstone--"If we can habituate ourselves to look at our circumstances in relation to our deserts, rather than to our likings, we shall see, on every side, abundant grounds for thankfulness & praise."(P.398)

5- ILLUS --A godly bishop was asked to explain the secret of his contentment & cheerfulness thru a long period of deep trial. He replied: "I will tell you. I make right use of my eyes

When asked to explain, he said: "FIRST, I look up to heaven & remember that my principle business is to get there. THEN I look down upon the earth & think about how small a place I will occupy when I am dead & buried. THEN I look around & see

the many who are in all respects so much worse off than I. My contentment comes when I realize where true happiness lies, where all my cares end, and how little reason I have to complain."

C. The Strength Of Contentment: (4:13)

1-Its Sufficiency--ALL SUFFICIENT
--"I can do all things"
--No DO in the Greek text
--No limitations for the child of God
--Outlandish claims today by many
--Credibility gap because many sound like the old-fashioned Medicine-Men of the old west
--BUT unable to "PUT UP" the reality
--Not so "in Christ"
--No limits!

2-Examples--Sarah bore a son — at age 90
--Moses became a deliverer of a nation — at age 80
--Joshua led in the conquest of Jericho — at age 85
--Jeremiah entered into a prophetic ministry when "a child"
--Paul engaged in his ministry in Macedonia (Acts 18:18)
--THE MANY of Heb. 11 - Hall of Fame of FAITH
--Rom. 4:20--"Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith."

3-Its Source--"IN CHRIST" (KJV reads "through Christ")
--BEFORE Paul came to know the truth of the indwelling & empowering presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in his life, Paul was utterly helpless (Rom. 7:18)
--But Paul has learned a great truth which he here affirms:
** While he, himself, can do no good thing
** The Lord Jesus Christ dwelling in him can DO ALL THINGS
--Scriptures ** John 15:5 "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, & I in Him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without ME ye can do nothing."
* Gal. 2:20
** Phil. 2:13

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear & trembling"

--Johnstone--"There is NO DUTY so arduous, that 'in Him', the Almighty and All-wise, it cannot be discharged, ---no trial so severe, that 'in Him' it cannot be undergone with fortitude & spiritual advantage." (P. 405)
--Michaelangelo, da Vinci, Bach, Eisenhower, Christian Barnard, Einstein — ALL ARE GONE!

***--If CHRIST, Who dwells in me, controls my mind, my lips, my hands, my feet, He can do ANYTHING through me that HE HAS THE POWER TO DO..!!
--And.....There's NO POWER SHORTAGE!!

4-Its Steadiness--Present tense of the verb
--"Which strengtheneth"=="Who keeps on pouring the power in"
--Translated "ENABLED" in 1 Tim. 1:12 "...I thank Jesus Christ our Lord, Who hath enabled me, for He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry"
--Victory is through His strength — I can't but HE CAN!
* Working in ME
--ILLUS--I am told there is a beautiful lily native to South India which wilts & atrophies in fertile, moisture-laden soil. Transplanted among the cacti, thorns & scrub of the desert-----IT THRIVES !!

Because of this ability to fourish in adverse circumstances, it is named G L O R I O S A!! Do you & I qualify for such a name in the midst of hostile surroundings?? (7)

Fanny Crosby wrote:

"Oh, what a happy soul am I!
Although I cannot see
I am resolved that in this world
CONTENTED I will be.

How many blessings I enjoy
That other people don't
To weep and sigh because I'm blind
I CANNOT, and I WON'T !!" — Written at age 8

5- ACCEPTANCE of what God brings as "our state" or circumstancees-
- Avoids murmuring discontent
- Also avoids self-satisfied pride
- Develops CONTENTMENT "in the Lord"

CONCLUSION:

A.-Problems In Life:

1-Nobody, but nobody, faces life unmarred or faultless. There is some obstruction bidding for its time.

2-As Val Hellikson of HAVEN OF REST puts it: "Every person has a little red wagon to pull."

- NONE of us is "care-free"!
- EPICTETUS--The Greek Philosopher. What a BRAIN! Yet he battled the rank of a common slave & wrenched through life on withered legs
- JOHN MILTON--spoke his words of fire in the darkness of total blindness
- GOETHE--The greatest of the German poets once wrote "I can affirm that during all my life, I have not had 4 weeks of genuine good health

3-H.G. Spafford, a Christian lawyer and close friend of D.L. Moody, lost 4 daughters in a mid-Atlantic ship collision. Mrs. Spafford's life was spared, and on his way to join her in England, he was given the grace, the insight & courage to pen the following well-known and frequently sung words:

"When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea-billows roll.
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say:
It is well, it is well with my soul."

B.-Principles For Life:

1-CONCENTRATE on the things you have and are, rather than on the things you do not have

2-REFUSE to make other people, their abilities or possessions, their talents or positions, your point of reference.

3-IF YOU MUST COMPARE---think of those less fortunate than you are

IMP.! → ④ FOCUS your life on things spiritual, and then material, social and intellectual values will be in proper perspective (8)

PROP ✱ ⑤ Make Christ PRE-EMINENT in your life for a Contentment in daily experience!!

That is THE FORMULA FOR CONTENTMENT

5/9/76--Calvary Columbus--#261--"I Am His, And He Is Mine"
1/23/80 - Mt Tabor Baptist Ch., W.V. #271--"It Is Well With My Soul" #3
1/27/80 - Old Kanawha Bapt. Ch, Pratt, WV Special Music — #262 "Jesus, I Am Resting"
12/13/87 - OKBC
12/27/87 - Fellowship Bapt Ch
3/15-98 - Pt. Blank Comm Ch MD #256 "He Is So Precious To Me" (2)
- S.B.C.C., Houston #11 "Wonderful" (1)
SOLO — #260
6/21/98 — Haddington, Scotland "How Tedious And Tasteless The Hours"
8/29/98 — Calloway Heights Comm. Ch., Beckley, WV
11/15/98 — Grace Gospel Ch, Beaver, WV
8/1/99 — Caversham Chapel, Dunedin

THINK RIGHT — 4:8
DO RIGHT — 4:9
LIVE RIGHT — 4:10-11
(Contentedly)
RESPOND RIGHT — 4:12-13