**PHILIPPIANS**

Leader Notes - 2:1-11

**Many of the responses given to the questions may very well be acceptable. Receive them with thanksgiving. In this lesson, whomever it will be worthwhile to also go over the additional notes found below.**

1. 2:1 Encouragement…United with Christ…Comfort from His love…Fellowship with the Spirit…Tenderness and compassion
2. What is the source of a true encouragement?

**The Greek word means a tender encouragement which addresses itself to the will of a Christian. Every true exhortation is based upon Christ, upon what He is and what He has done for us. The Apostle calls upon the Philippians to be moved to action for Christ’s sake. Christ must always be the chief motivation for Christian action. Christians undertake every project to glorify Christ. Christ constantly moves them to humble obedience.**

1. What do you think it means to be “united with Christ” as it applies to our personal lives? **Jesus often says that He and the Father are one. By that He means that He and the Father share the same purpose (bringing people to be saved) and have the same power to do so.**
2. What do you think is all included in “comfort from His love? **This is the comforting knowledge and assurance that come from God’s love in Christ, demonstrated especially in Christ’s death for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.**
3. What do you think it means to have “fellowship with the Spirit?” **This is the fellowship among believers produced by the Spirit, who indwells each of them. This joining together of the Holy Spirit with the believer comes about through the inspired Word.**
4. How does “tenderness and compassion” show itself in a Christian’s life?

**Christians are to have intense care and a deep sympathy for each other.**

1. 2:2-4 Paul tells them to be like-minded.

**The Philippians had already brought much joy to the apostle. Their partnership in the gospel, their faith and love, their generosity all brought him joy every time he thought about them or prayed for them. But, there was one more thing the Philippians could strive to do, Paul’s says, that would truly make his joy complete. That one thing was to seek a greater measure of harmony in their dealings and relationships with one another.**

1. How does he say in verse 2 that it can be done? **Love the same things, being one in spirit and purpose.**
2. What do you think Paul means by the phrase “consider others better than yourselves?” **Paul is not advocating a false modesty. He does not want talented believers to deny their special gifts or hide or neglect them. A humble child of God, no matter how many or how few his gifts may be, will strive to put the best construction on everything his neighbor does. He will happily acknowledge and respect whatever gifts the neighbor has, be they many or few. In everything the humble Christian will strive to give the neighbor first consideration.**
3. What do you think that Paul is trying to tell the Philippians and us in verse 3?

**We are to be concerned about our brother’s affairs and interests in the same measure as we are interested in our own.**

1. 2:5 Beginning with this verse Paul gives the Philippians the example of how Christ humbly served. One translation says, “Think just as Christ Jesus thought.” At this point in this study what do you think the phrase “your attitude should be the same as that of Christ” means? **Answers will vary. Accept them and move on.**
2. 2:6 God…Not equal with God…Grasped
3. In His nature Jesus was equal to God and was God. What are some examples from His life where He illustrated His godhead? **In His teaching, living and miracles.**
4. Name the times when He showed that He was human? **Birth – Life on earth – death – slept – cried – was hungry and thirsty…**
5. Why is it important that He was both God and man? **He had to take our place under the Law and to be punished for our sins.**
6. The phrase “something to be grasped” means something to be forcibly retained for self-glorification. Jesus totally gave up that right just to save us. How is that so different from what people with power and privilege do today?

**Answers will vary. Accept them with thanksgiving.**

1. What is the lesson in this for us? **Answers will vary. Accept them with thanksgiving.**
2. 2:7 When it says in this verse that Jesus “made Himself nothing” he literally made Himself a slave. The Greek word here means that He placed Himself totally at the disposal of the Father. He had no rights or life outside of what the Father had for Him to do. Ponder for a moment what He willing to do just for you. Jot down a few thoughts that come to mind. **Answers will vary. Accept them with thanksgiving.**
3. 2:8 What three humiliating acts are mentioned in this verse? Read Leader Notes for a greater insight. **People saw Christ as an ordinary human being with all the characteristics of a man. Yet he was without sin, which is rebellion against God.**

**In OT Israel, after a wrongdoer had been put to death, the civil laws prescribed that his dead body be nailed to a post or a tree. This was to impress on the people that that individual, by his transgression, had suffer the ultimate curse of being cut off from God and His believing people. If in the sight of God, than hanging of a dead body signified His curse, how much more would the hanging of a living person be considered a curse, especially when that person was experiencing anguish beyond description.**

1. 2:9 Exalted
2. What was Jesus’ reward? **The Apostle’s Creed lists the various events of Jesus’ exaltation: “He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.” What a glorious victory these words describe. Jesus, our Savior, having successfully completed His redemptive work for us, openly triumphed over the forces of hell. Death had to relinquish its hold on Him. Earth could no longer contain Him. Heaven opened its doors to receive Him. Jesus, our victorious Savior, now holds in His hands the reins of the universe. He rules all things in heaven and on earth in the interest of His believers, and He will come again to end this age, judge the world, and take His believers to be with Him and to share His glory in eternal life.**
3. How will we benefit from Jesus reward? **He did all the suffering and dying and we reap the reward which is eternal life.**
4. 2:10 How is this verse comforting? **God’s design is that all people everywhere should worship and serve Jesus as Lord. Ultimately all will acknowledge him as Lord, whether willingly or not. We will be vindicated for all that we have suffered here on earth and be victorious with Christ.**
5. 2:11 When and where will this happen? **On the Last Day at the Judgment**.