

**Study of Philippians – Philippians 2:1-30**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Winter 2011 / 2012**

**(I) The Challenge from Paul (1-18)**

Four "If" clauses to spur them to action...  
 \*Paul assumes these statements to be "true"

Is Paul encouraging them to unity even at the expense of truth?  
 \*John 17:20-21

**a. The essentials (1-4)**

- What they should do
- How they should do it

<sup>(1)</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any  
<sup>(2)</sup> comfort from love, <sup>(3)</sup> any participation in the Spirit, any  
<sup>(4)</sup> affection and sympathy,

<sup>2</sup> **complete** my joy by being of the *same mind*, having the *same love*, being in *full accord* and of *one mind*.

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in **humility** count others more significant than yourselves.

<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to **his own interests**, but also to the **interests of others**.

<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in **Christ Jesus**,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God **a thing to be grasped**,

<sup>7</sup> but made **himself nothing**, taking the form of a *servant*, being born in the likeness of men.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he *humbled himself* by becoming **obedient to the point of death**, even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly **exalted him** and bestowed on him the *name that is above every name*,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always *obeyed*, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence,

**work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**,

<sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

What things are required for unity to flourish within the church?

What does it mean that he became "nothing" or "emptied himself?" Does this mean he gave up equality with God?

**Obedience of Christ**  
 \*Heb 5:7-8

**Priesthood of Christ**  
 \*Heb 4:14-16

**Note:** Paul does NOT say "work FOR your own salvation..." - Salvation is not something we can earn. With this in mind, what is Paul prescribing?  
 \*James 2:14-26

**b. The example (5-11)**

**Christology**

\*The study of the Person and work of Jesus Christ

**Servant**

\*John 13:1-16

**Exalted**

\*Acts 2:33-36  
 \*Isa 45:23  
 \*Rom 14:11

**c. The exhortation (12-18)**

- a. What they should do

Study of Philippians – Philippians 2:1-30  
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b. How they should do it

**Crooked and Twisted Generation**  
\*Deut 32:5

**Day of Jesus Christ**  
\*I Cor 1:8; 5:5  
\*II Cor 1:14  
\*Phil 1:6,10

**Run in Vain...**  
\*II Tim 2:5; 4:7  
\*I Cor 9:24-27  
\*Heb 12:1

(II) The Coworkers from Paul (19-30)

a. Timothy (19-24)

**Send Timothy to you...**  
\*I Thess 3:1-10

**Son with a father...**  
\*I Tim 1:1-2  
\*II Tim 1:1-2

b. Epaphroditus (25-30)

**Send to you...**  
\*Phil 4:18

<sup>(1)</sup> 14 Do **all things** without *grumbling or questioning*,  
<sup>(2)</sup> 15 that you may be **blameless and innocent**, children of God without blemish in the midst of <sup>(3)</sup> a *crooked and twisted generation*, among whom you **shine as lights** in the world,  
<sup>(4)</sup> 16 **holding fast to the word of life**, so that in the *day of Christ* I may be proud that I did not *run in vain or labor in vain*.

17 Even if I am to be *poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering* of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send **Timothy** to you soon, so that I too *may be cheered by news of you*.

20 For I have no one like him, *who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare*.

21 For they all **seek their own interests**, not those of Jesus Christ.

22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a *son with a father* he has served with me in the gospel.

23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me,

24 **and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also**.

25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your **messenger** and minister to my need,

26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill.

27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and *that I may be less anxious*.

29 So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men,

30 *for he nearly died for the work of Christ*, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

What do "grumbling" or "questioning" lead to within a congregation?  
(vv. 2:2; 4:2-3)

**Shine as Lights**  
\*Matt 5:13-16  
\*John 8:12  
\*I John 1:5-7

**Labor in Vain...**  
\*II Cor 11:21-29

Wine poured out ceremonially with certain sacrifices  
\*Num 15:1-10  
\*II Tim 4:6

**Timothy...**

\*Currently with Paul (2:19)  
\*Present at founding of the church (Acts 16:1-12)  
\*Visited Philippi many times (Acts 19:22, 20:3-6)

**Seek their own interests...**  
\*Phil 1:15

**What would have given Paul this confidence?**  
\*Phil 1:24  
\*Acts 23:29, 25:25, 26:31-32

Greek Word: ἀπόστολος

Transliteration: apostolos

Definition: a messenger, one sent on a mission, an apostle

-Acts 14:14  
-Gal 1:19 - James  
-II Cor 11:13 - False

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Unity

**John 17:20-21 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Servant

**John 13:1-16 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup> rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.” <sup>12</sup> When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

Obedience of Christ

**Hebrews 5:7-8 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

Exalted

**Acts 2:33-36 (ESV)**

<sup>33</sup> Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “ ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies your footstool.’ <sup>36</sup> Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

**Isaiah 45:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’

**Romans 14:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

**Study of Philippians – Philippians 2:1-30**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Winter 2011 / 2012**

Priesthood

**Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Work Out

**James 2:14-26 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. <sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! <sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; <sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? <sup>26</sup> For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Grumbling or Questioning

**Philippians 4:2-3 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Crooked and Twisted Generation

**Deuteronomy 32:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation.

Shine as Lights

**Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**John 8:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**Study of Philippians – Philippians 2:1-30**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Winter 2011 / 2012**

**1 John 1:5-7 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Day of Jesus Christ

**1 Corinthians 1:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 5:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

**2 Corinthians 1:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> just as you did partially acknowledge us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

Run in Vain

**2 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

**2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup> Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup> So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Labor in Vain

**2 Corinthians 11:21-29 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. <sup>22</sup> Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. <sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; <sup>26</sup> on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; <sup>27</sup> in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. <sup>28</sup> And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. <sup>29</sup> Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

Poured Out as a Drink Offering

**Numbers 15:1-10 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land you are to inhabit, which I am giving you, <sup>3</sup> and you offer to the Lord from the herd or from the flock a food offering or a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering or at your appointed feasts, to make a pleasing aroma to the Lord, <sup>4</sup> then he who brings his offering shall offer to the Lord a grain offering of a tenth of an ephah of fine flour, mixed with a quarter of a hin of oil; <sup>5</sup> and you

**Study of Philippians – Philippians 2:1-30**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Winter 2011 / 2012**

shall offer with the burnt offering, or for the sacrifice, a quarter of a hin of wine for the drink offering for each lamb. <sup>6</sup>Or for a ram, you shall offer for a grain offering two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a third of a hin of oil. <sup>7</sup>And for the drink offering you shall offer a third of a hin of wine, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. <sup>8</sup>And when you offer a bull as a burnt offering or sacrifice, to fulfill a vow or for peace offerings to the Lord, <sup>9</sup>then one shall offer with the bull a grain offering of three tenths of an ephah of fine flour, mixed with half a hin of oil. <sup>10</sup>And you shall offer for the drink offering half a hin of wine, as a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

**2 Timothy 4:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup>For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

Timothy

**Acts 16:1-12 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup>He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. <sup>3</sup>Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. <sup>4</sup>As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily. <sup>6</sup>And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup>And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. <sup>8</sup>So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup>And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup>And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. <sup>11</sup>So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.

**Acts 19:22 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup>And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

**Acts 20:3-6 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. <sup>4</sup>Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. <sup>5</sup>These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, <sup>6</sup>but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

Send Timothy

**1 Thessalonians 3:1-10 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, <sup>2</sup>and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, <sup>3</sup>that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. <sup>4</sup>For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. <sup>5</sup>For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain. <sup>6</sup>But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— <sup>7</sup>for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. <sup>8</sup>For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. <sup>9</sup>For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all

**Study of Philippians – Philippians 2:1-30**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Winter 2011 / 2012**

the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, <sup>10</sup> as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

Seek Their Own Interests

**Philippians 1:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.

Son With a Father

**1 Timothy 1:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, <sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

**2 Timothy 1:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul's Confidence

**(Felix)**

**Acts 23:29 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup> I found that he was being accused about questions of their law, but charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment.

**(Festus)**

**Acts 25:25 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> But I found that he had done nothing deserving death. And as he himself appealed to the emperor, I decided to go ahead and send him.

**(Agrippa)**

**Acts 26:31-32 (ESV)**

<sup>31</sup> And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, "This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment." <sup>32</sup> And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Sent to You Epaphroditus

**Philippians 4:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

**Study of Philippians – Philippians 2:1-30**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Winter 2011 / 2012**

Apostles

Greek NASB Number: 652

**Greek Word:** ἀπόστολος

**Transliterated Word:** *apostolos*

**Root:** from [649](#);

**Definition:** a messenger, one sent on a mission, an apostle:--

**List of English Words and Number of Times Used**

apostle (19),  
apostles (52),  
apostles' (5),  
messenger (1),  
messengers (1),  
is sent (1).<sup>1</sup>

**Acts 14:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out,

**Galatians 1:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

**2 Corinthians 11:12-15 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> And what I do I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. <sup>13</sup> For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

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<sup>1</sup> New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.