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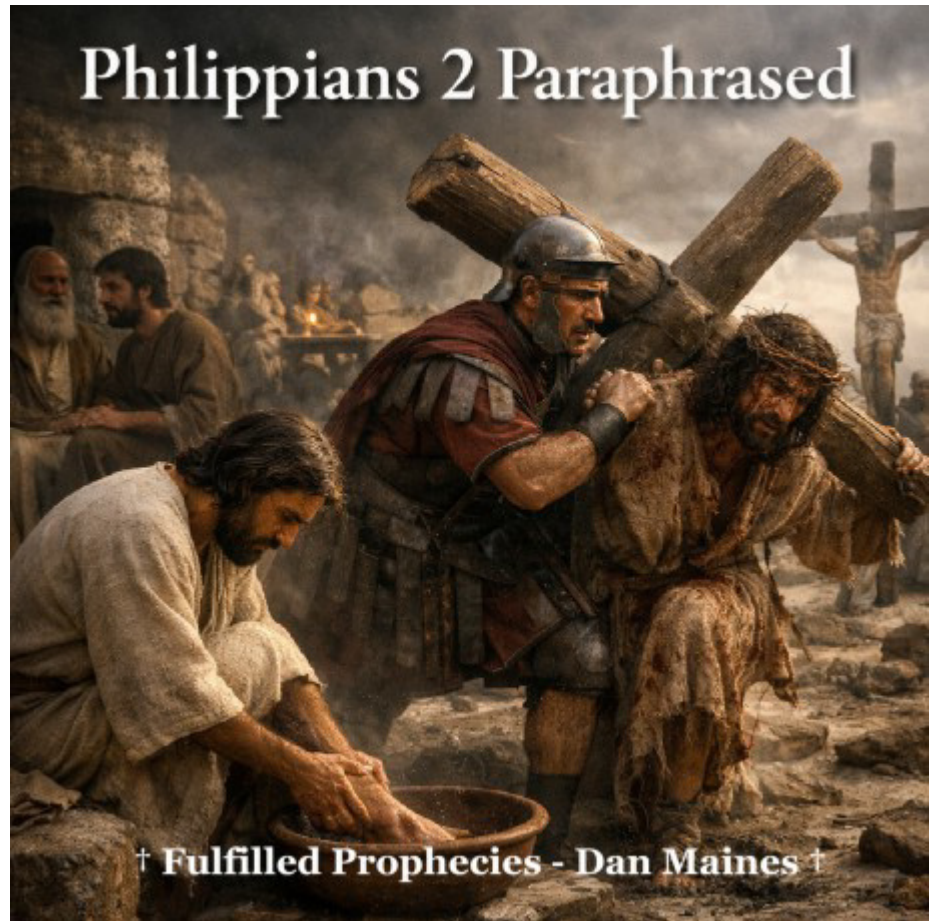
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Philippians 2 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Philippians 2 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Paul calls believers to live in unity and humility, reflecting the character of Christ in how they treat one another.

† The early church faced pressure from the world around them, so unity and humility were essential for their witness (John 13:34-35).

† This chapter reveals the humility of Christ and shows believers the mindset they must carry in their daily lives (Matthew 20:26-28).

Philippians 2:1

If being united with Christ brings you encouragement, if His love brings comfort, if sharing in the Spirit brings fellowship, and if there is any compassion and mercy among you,

† Life in Christ creates a shared fellowship that binds believers together as one body (Romans 12:5).

† Encouragement, love, and compassion are fruits of the Spirit working among believers (Galatians 5:22).

† Clement of Alexandria wrote that believers who share the same Spirit should live in harmony with one another.

Philippians 2:2

then make my joy complete by thinking the same way, sharing the same love, being united in spirit and purpose.

† Paul desires unity in the church so the gospel message will remain strong (Ephesians 4:3).

† The early believers demonstrated this unity when they were described as one heart and one soul (Acts 4:32).

† Irenaeus taught that the church stands firm when believers hold the same faith and love together.

Philippians 2:3

Don't do anything out of selfish ambition or pride, but with humility consider others as more important than yourselves.

† Selfish ambition divides believers and damages the church (James 3:16).

† Jesus taught that greatness in God's kingdom comes through serving others (Matthew 23:11).

† Tertullian observed that pagans were amazed at the humility and love Christians showed toward each other.

Philippians 2:4

Don't look only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

† The Christian life calls believers to care about others and not live for themselves alone (Galatians 6:2).

† Christ demonstrated this love by giving His life for others (John 15:13).

† Early Christian communities were known for caring for the poor, widows, and the sick.

Philippians 2:5

Have the same mindset among yourselves that Christ Jesus had,

† Christ is the ultimate example of humility and obedience (1 Peter 2:21).

† Believers are called to adopt His attitude of service toward others (Mark 10:45).

† This mindset transforms how believers live and serve within the church.

Philippians 2:6

who existed in the form of God, yet didn't cling to His equality with God as something to grasp and hold onto.

† Christ possessed divine glory before coming into the world (John 17:5).

† Instead of holding onto that position, He willingly chose the path of humility (2 Corinthians 8:9).

† Irenaeus explained that Christ lowered Himself so humanity could be restored.

Philippians 2:7

Instead, He emptied Himself by taking the form of a servant and being born in human likeness.

† The Son of God entered the world as a servant rather than a ruler (Luke 2:7).

† His humility was evident from His birth through His entire ministry (Matthew 8:20).

† Eusebius wrote that Christ took human form to rescue mankind.

Philippians 2:8

And being found as a man, He humbled Himself even further by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

† The cross was the ultimate demonstration of obedience to the Father (Hebrews 5:8).

† Crucifixion was the most shameful death in the Roman world (Galatians 3:13).

† The early church constantly proclaimed the cross as the center of the gospel message.

Philippians 2:9

For this reason also, God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name,

† Because of His obedience, Christ was raised to the highest authority (Acts 2:33).

† His exaltation fulfilled the promises about the Messiah reigning as Lord (Psalm 110:1).

† Justin Martyr testified that early Christians proclaimed Jesus as Lord above every ruler.

Philippians 2:10

so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

† This echoes Isaiah's prophecy that every knee would bow to the Lord (Isaiah 45:23).

† Christ's authority extends over heaven, earth, and every realm of creation (Matthew 28:18).

† The early church believed Jesus had already been enthroned as Lord.

Philippians 2:11

and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, bringing

glory to God the Father.

† Confessing Christ as Lord became the defining declaration of early Christianity (Romans 10:9).

† This confession spreads wherever the gospel is proclaimed (Acts 4:12).

† The glory of Christ ultimately brings glory to the Father.

Philippians 2:12

So then, my beloved friends, just as you've always obeyed, continue working out your salvation with reverence and seriousness, not only when I'm with you but even more now that I'm absent.

† Salvation produces a life of obedience and reverence before God (Hebrews 12:28).

† Paul encourages believers to remain faithful even when leadership isn't present (1 Thessalonians 4:1).

† Faithfulness proves genuine devotion to Christ.

Philippians 2:13

because it is God who is working in you, giving you both the desire and the ability to do what pleases Him.

† God actively works within believers through His Spirit (Ezekiel 36:27).

† The Christian life is the result of God's transforming power (Philippians 1:6).

† Believers cooperate with the work God is already doing in their hearts.

Philippians 2:14

Do everything without complaining or arguing,

† Complaining and arguing create division among believers (1 Corinthians 10:10).

† God calls His people to live in peace with one another (Romans 14:19).

† A peaceful church reflects the character of Christ.

Philippians 2:15

so that you'll be blameless and pure, children of God without fault in the middle of a crooked and corrupt generation, shining like lights in the world,

† Believers are meant to stand out in a dark world (Matthew 5:14-16).

† The early church was recognized for its moral and spiritual purity.

† Their conduct served as a witness to the surrounding nations.

Philippians 2:16

holding firmly to the message of life, so that on the day of Christ I'll have reason to celebrate because I didn't run my race or work in vain.

† Paul compares ministry to running a race that requires endurance (1 Corinthians 9:24).

† Faithful believers prove that Paul's work among them was not wasted.

† The message of life refers to the gospel itself.

Philippians 2:17

Even if I'm being poured out like a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I'm glad and rejoice with all of you.

† Paul compares his suffering to a drink offering poured out in sacrifice (Numbers 15:5).

† His ministry involved suffering for the sake of the church.

† Despite hardship Paul rejoiced because the gospel was advancing.

Philippians 2:18

In the same way you also should rejoice and share your joy with me.

† Christian joy isn't dependent on circumstances (Philippians 4:4).

† Believers share joy with one another even during trials.

† Joy flows from faith in Christ rather than outward conditions.

Philippians 2:19

Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon so that I'll be encouraged when I hear how you're doing.

† Timothy was one of Paul's closest companions in ministry (Acts 16:1-3).

† Trusted coworkers were essential in the spread of the gospel.

† Paul relied on faithful men like Timothy to strengthen churches.

Philippians 2:20

I have no one else like him who genuinely cares about your well being.

† Timothy showed sincere concern for the spiritual health of the church.

† True ministry focuses on caring for believers rather than personal gain.

† Paul recognized Timothy as a faithful servant.

Philippians 2:21

Everyone else seems focused on their own interests rather than the interests of Jesus Christ.

† Paul contrasts selfish ambition with true devotion to Christ.

† Ministry should always place Christ's interests first.

† Faithful servants focus on advancing the gospel.

Philippians 2:22

But you know Timothy's proven character, how he served with me in the work of the gospel like a son serving his father.

† Timothy had demonstrated faithfulness through years of ministry.

† Paul viewed him as a spiritual son and trusted partner.

† Their partnership strengthened many churches.

Philippians 2:23

So I hope to send him as soon as I see how things turn out for me,

† Paul's imprisonment created uncertainty about his situation (Philippians 1:13).

† Yet he still planned for the continued care of the churches.

† Even while imprisoned Paul remained focused on ministry.

Philippians 2:24

and I trust in the Lord that I myself will also come soon.

† Paul hoped to visit the Philippian church again.

† His trust remained in the Lord despite imprisonment.

† Faith in God's providence shaped Paul's outlook.

Philippians 2:25

But I thought it was necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and servant to help with my needs.

† Epaphroditus had been sent by the Philippians to help Paul.

† Paul honors him as a fellow worker and faithful servant.

† Christian ministry often involves cooperation among many believers.

Philippians 2:26

He has been longing to see all of you and has been distressed because you heard he was sick.

† This shows the deep love shared among believers.

† The Philippian church was concerned about Epaphroditus.

† Christian fellowship creates strong emotional bonds.

Philippians 2:27

Indeed he was sick and nearly died, but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but also on me, so I wouldn't have sorrow

upon sorrow.

† Paul's words reveal the seriousness of Epaphroditus's illness.

† God's mercy restored him and spared Paul additional grief.

† Believers recognized God's hand in such recoveries.

Philippians 2:28

So I'm sending him back eagerly so that when you see him again you'll rejoice, and I'll have less anxiety.

† Paul wanted the church to rejoice at seeing him again.

† Sending him back would relieve concern among the believers.

† The church community shared deeply in one another's lives.

Philippians 2:29

Welcome him in the Lord with great joy and honor people like him,

† Faithful servants of the gospel deserve recognition and honor (1 Timothy 5:17).

† The church was encouraged to value those who served sacrificially.

† Honoring such workers strengthened the church.

Philippians 2:30

because he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what you couldn't do for me while you were far away.

† Many early believers risked their lives for the work of Christ.

† Epaphroditus represents the dedication seen in the early church.

† Eusebius later recorded many believers who gave their lives serving Christ.

Historical References

† Clement of Alexandria wrote that Christian unity flows from believers sharing one Spirit.

† Irenaeus taught that Christ's humility restored humanity through obedience.

† Tertullian observed that pagans recognized Christians by their love and humility.

† Eusebius recorded believers who risked their lives serving the church during persecution.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Christ's humility remains the model for every believer today.

† Unity grows when believers put others before themselves.

† The church remains strong when believers serve with humility.

† Faithful ministry often requires sacrifice just as it did in the early church.

† Believers continue to shine as lights in a dark world.

Q & A Appendix

Q What mindset are believers called to have?

A The mindset of Christ, humility and service toward others (Matthew 20:26-28).

Q What example did Christ give through His life?

A He humbled Himself and became obedient even to death on a cross (Hebrews 5:8).

Q Why was Christ exalted by God?

A Because of His obedience and sacrifice (Acts 2:33).

Q What behavior does Paul warn believers to avoid?

A Selfish ambition and pride that cause division (James 3:16).

Q What are believers called to be in the world?

A Lights shining in the midst of a corrupt generation (Matthew 5:14-16).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Philippians 2

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Tertullian, Apology

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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