

# LESSON THREE

## PRESSING TOWARD THE GOAL

### Philippians 2:1-18

In chapter two we see Paul encouraging the church to a life that rightly represents Christ to the world. Prayerfully read through the whole passage of this lesson from verse 1 to verse 18.

1. After reading through the whole passage of the verses covered in this lesson, write down what you believe Paul is referring to in verse 2 when he says they are to be “intent on one purpose” (NAS V) or “being one in spirit and purpose” (NIV) or “of one accord, of one mind” (NKJV). Look back at Philippians 1:27b before giving your answer.

a. Look up the following Scriptures and share how they enhance this encouragement? **Jot down the central point you glean from each one.**

Romans 14:19 -

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 -

Ephesians 4:11-16 -

1 Thessalonians 5:11.

2. Paul continues in verse 3, giving us insight into **how** we can fulfill the exhortation of verses 1 and 2. What does Paul say in verse 3?

a. What sobering truth does Psalm 62:9 tell us?

b. What do Romans 12:3-6a and James 3:16 say that add to this?

3. In verse 4 Paul tells the church they are not only to look out for their own interests, but also the interests of others. Romans 14:20-22 and 1 Corinthians 8:4-13 give us a couple of very practical examples of how we can put others before ourselves. Look especially at verse 9 of 1 Corinthians, chapter 8. As you read over these two passages, share your thoughts.

4. Read Philippians 2:5-8. In verse 5 what does Paul tell us we must do?

5. Looking at verses 6 through 8, make an **itemized list** of all of the ways Christ humbled Himself.

6. Paul says in verse 9, that “Therefore,” or as the Amplified Bible puts it, “For THIS reason,” ..... “God highly exalted Him....” Jesus lived as the ultimate example to us of what a life well-pleasing to God looks like. Share what further insights you get from the following Scriptures.

Isaiah 57:15 –

Mark 10:42-45 –

John 6:38 –

7. Back to Philippians, chapter two, in verses 10 and 11 we hold onto the promise of seeing the victory that Christ has already won. What two things does Paul assure us **WILL** take place?

a. Look at the following Scriptures and share how they minister to your heart concerning the present state of this world system. Psalm 72:9-11; Psalm 95:6-7; Isaiah 45:21-23; Isaiah 49:7; Revelation 15:4.

8. As you go back to Philippians, chapter two, read verse 12a. Note that Paul assures them of the confidence he has in them. It's a confidence he expresses whether he is there fellowshiping with them or many miles away in a prison in Rome. What is this confidence?

a. We are strongly exhorted throughout the Bible to be sincere and without hypocrisy. We need to be the same people in private as we are in public, the same whether all eyes are on us or whether we think no one is looking. **Pick out one** of the following **Scriptures and share how it ministers to you** concerning this subject. Isaiah 29:15-16; Matthew 15:8; Luke 12:1-3; 1 Timothy 1:5-7, and James 3:17.

9. In Philippians 2:12, what does Paul tell them to do in the last part of this verse?

a. What do you think this means? What is Paul saying here?

10. Look at the following Scriptures and share what further insights you see in Paul's exhortation in the last part of Philippians 2:12.

Luke 13:6-9 –

John 15:1-4 –

Romans 6:22

2 Corinthians 13:5 –

1 Timothy 4:15 –

a. How does this minister to you? Is there a particular Scripture that speaks to your heart?

11. As we look at this exhortation Paul gives us in verse 12, it's easy to feel a bit of fear and trembling. We all know the weakness of our flesh and how easily we can wander off course if left to ourselves. Paul gives us a "sigh of relief" in verse 13. Write the verse down.

a. How do these Scriptures further encourage our hearts?

Ephesians 2:10 –

Philippians 1:6 –

Hebrews 12:2a –

Hebrews 13:20-21-

Jude 24-25 -

a. How do these Scriptures minister to you? Share with the group what encouragements they give to your heart.

12. Write down what Paul asks them to do in Philippians 2:14.

13. Write down the **reason** he asks them to do that, stated in verse 15.

a. Look up the following Scriptures and jot down what they add to this.

Matthew 5:16 -

2 Corinthian 6:3 -

Ephesians 5:8 -

Ephesians 5:15-17 -

1 John 1:7 -

14. In verse 16 of Philippians chapter two, Paul tells them to “hold fast the Word of life so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.” In other words, Paul is telling them he doesn’t want to feel ashamed because he “**wasted his time**,” finding them unfaithful in the end after investing so much in their spiritual growth. We all need to make sure we have not run our race in vain, that we have **redeemed**

**the time**, that we have finished the course the Lord has set before us to run.  
Read 1 Corinthians 9:27 and Hebrews 12:1.

Are there certain obstacles in your path that keep trying to “trip you up” in the race? Are there certain sins that you find still “easily entangle” you as you try to run towards the finish line? Write out a prayer to the Lord, asking Him to help you to *FINISH WELL..... and to say along with Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith....”*

15. Paul concludes these thoughts by telling them that even though he has poured himself out for them, and even though he may be offered as a sacrifice for their faith, he still rejoices and finds great joy in them, and he urges them to share in that joy. What insights can we glean from 1 Corinthians 15:58 and 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 about the time, hardship, trials and investment we have made in others for the kingdom of God?

16. What has ministered most to your heart as we conclude this lesson?