

Philippians 2:1-4

- 1) Command # 1—2:2 ² *make my joy complete*
 - a) Paul tells them how the congregation may bring joy to his heart

- 2) How does one go about doing that?—2:1-3
 - a) By recognizing the reality of what God the Father has already provided for us in Christ—2:1 (assumed true for the sake of argument)
 - o NB that the Trinity is understood; cf. 2nd Corinthians 13:14
 - i) In the face of discouragement—¹ *If therefore there is any encouragement [paraklesis] in (the sphere of) Christ,*
 - ii) In the face of adversity—*if there is any consolation [paramuthion] of love,*
 - iii) In the face of self-dependence—*if there is any fellowship [koinonia] of the Spirit,*
 - iv) In the face of indifference—*if there is any compassion [splanchnon] and mercy [oiktirmos],* (both are plurals but understand as singulars; referring to tangible expressions of concern for others)
 - b) By being focused on something/someone other than ourselves—2:2-3
 - i) Thoughts/attitudes
 - (1) Mindset—*by thinking* [pres. act. subj. of *phroneo*] *the same way,*
 - (2) Focus—*focusing on* [pres. act. ptc. of *phroneo*] *one thing.*
 - (3) Fact-based—*but in self-abasement [tapeinophrosune] regarding* (intentionally weighing the data concerning) [pres. mid. ptc. of *hegeomai*] *one other as being more significant* [pres. act. ptc. of *huperecho*] *than yourselves.*
 - (a) Someone has said that humility is not thinking less of ourselves but rather thinking of ourselves less. The Romans despised this quality.
 - (b) It involves acknowledging one's creaturely inadequacies, and trusting God rather than one's own abilities.
 - ii) Affections
 - (1) Loving—*while having* [pres. act. ptc.] *the same love [agape],*
 - (2) Harmonious—*being in agreement [sumpsuchos],*
 - (a) Spiritual unity does not occur without doctrinal unity.
 - iii) Motives
 - (1) Not self-oriented—³ *Doing nothing according to [kata] selfish ambition [eritheia]*
 - (a) Don't evaluate circumstances in terms of how it benefits me.
 - (b) This is a work of the Flesh (cf. Galatians 5:20; James 3:13-18)
 - (2) Not exaggerated self-evaluation—*or groundless self-esteem [kenodoxia],*
 - (a) As believers our self-assessment should be based on what God's verdict, not on our own evaluation or that of others.

- 3) Command # 2 summarizes the truth of 2:2-3—2:4 ⁴ *Let each one be concerned/pay attention to [skopeo]...*
 - Some Greek texts have a participle here instead of a command
 - a) Negatively—*not his own interests*
 - i) Without disregarding appropriate personal responsibility
 - b) Positively—*but rather the interests of others.*
 - i) Without meddling or inappropriate curiosity