



# MONDAY 9 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

## Read: Philippians 2:1-4

### Plug In...

This chapter division misleads us that Paul is starting a new section here. Actually, it starts with “therefore” making what follows hang logically off 1:27-30. Paul is continuing to help us know *how to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel*.

### Chew It Over...

The list of attitudes and actions in these verses are what a community of the Spirit looks like. As we saw in Matthew, the Kingdom of God breaking into this world is that His Spirit rules our hearts ([Matthew 15:1-20](#)). While we will never perfectly or holistically experience this until the future, the work of Christ is that the rule of God breaks into people’s hearts now.

So, knowing that God breaks into our hearts to overrule our vanity and conceit, we can look at this list and ask for radical change.

### Prayer Suggestion

Take each item on this list and pray to God regarding it. Ask to expose concrete gaps. Confess. Ask to be enabled to share in the characteristics of the Spirit. Praise God for the work He’s already done.



# TUESDAY 10 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

## Read: Philippians 2:5-11

### **Plug In...**

Christians are to be in relationship with each other so that they serve like Christ served.

This is not left in the abstract. Paul shows that Jesus with all the glory, privilege, and quality of being the God of the universe – worthy of all worship and homage – chose not to exploit that but became humble. He disadvantaged Himself, even to the point of pouring out His life, to advantage others.

### **Chew It Over...**

This is full-on! Only achievable by the Spirit invading our hearts. This is more than fulfilling our duty. This is going beyond the call of duty. This is heroic! To forgo “my rights” to raise up others, to bring glory and prestige to us.

What place does Jesus now occupy in the universe?

What place does He occupy in your life?

How can you look out for the interests of others in this radical way of Jesus?

### **Prayer Suggestion**

Oh Lord! I start knowing I am anything but this in mindset. In fact, my heart seeks to minimise others – minimise you – in order that I become grander. I know where this leaves me. Please don't leave me behind! Break me! Shape me! Take me to where you are!



## WEDNESDAY II APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

### Re-Read: Philippians 2:5-II

#### **Plug In...**

This hymn gives the timeline of the history of Jesus. Jesus moves from heaven to become a man. Jesus didn't cease to be God. The best translation of the phrase the NIV has as "he made himself nothing" (v.7b), is *lowered himself*. Sometimes this phrase is explained as Jesus becoming less God or emptying Himself of power. But the hymn explains itself: Jesus took on human nature, *lowered* Himself to a servant, one that obeyed yet died under God's curse.

#### **Chew It Over...**

This is the person of Jesus. This is the nature of God. This is the history of God; this is story that changed the world.

#### **Prayer Suggestion**

Pray that more and more people will bow the knee to the Lord of the Universe, Jesus. Pray that God would help you to live in service of others, and humbly obey your Lord.



THURSDAY 12 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

## Read: Philippians 2:12-18

### Plug In...

Again, another “therefore”. All that follows is connected to Paul giving the history of Jesus: moving from heaven to human form, to death, to heaven with hyper-exaltation!

### Chew It Over...

Verse 12-13: “Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.”

What are the two statements here? How are they ordered?

If you change the order, is it still good news?

### Prayer Suggestion

Thank you God for the assurance that it is You. We work hard, we strive, we lurch forward, but it is actually You!



FRIDAY 13 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

## Read: Philippians 2:14-16

### Plug In...

The Israelites were known for grumbling. Moses declared their grumbling to be evidence of their hearts being warped and crooked (see Deuteronomy 32:5).

Paul is alluding to this same dynamic appearing amongst the church. The church is an expression of the rule of the Kingdom on earth. While not perfect yet, it is to be starkly different; to shine out like stars against a black night.

### Chew It Over...

The grumbling referred to in today's passage is more likely between the members of the church. However, while our grumbling might not be addressed to God, in what sense is our grumbling still actually our problem with God?

It is easy to be discontent and dissatisfied, and therefore to grumble – including with members of our church. If you have done this, confess it to God, ask for forgiveness and for His help to live as “children of God without fault” and as a faithful witness to the non-Christian world.

### Prayer Suggestion

Ask for the attitude of heart that allows even our lives to be poured out like a drink offering – our deaths –not leading to grumbling, but to rejoicing. May our Christian brothers and sisters notice this. May the world notice the difference in the church. May they desire to seek out why.



## WEEKEND 14-15 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

### Read: Philippians 2:19-30

#### **Plug In...**

Paul speaks of Epaphroditus and Timothy as examples of serving like Christ (*cf.* 2:5). Notice here the reality of the personal cost that comes with pursuing the interests of Jesus.

#### **Chew It Over...**

Look again at verses 20 and 21. How are these verses connected? When read together, what might we conclude are the interests of Jesus Christ?

Think into this weekend and the next week, where and how can you imitate Paul, Epaphroditus, and Timothy in being like Christ.

#### **Prayer Suggestion**

Praise God that our Lord Jesus would be deeply concerned for His people's faith and maturity. Ask God to make you increasingly concerned with those things which matter to the Lord Jesus.