

Study of Philippians 2

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1 IF there is therefore any consolation in Messiah, IF any comfort of love, IF any fellowship of the Spirit, IF any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfill you my joy, that you be like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Paul knows that there ***IS*** consolation in Messiah, he knows that there ***IS*** comfort, in the love of Messiah, and that there ***IS*** a fellowship with the Spirit in Messiah, that is available to us, and that there ***ARE*** mercies in Messiah, who ***IS*** the Words of the Living Torah of our heavenly Father made flesh, that we have ***yet to experience***, and therefore, Paul admonishes us ***to be like minded with Messiah***, which will then cause us, to ***HAVE*** the same love for Him, that He, has for us, His charge, His sheep, His children, which means, that because of that Love, ***WE***, you and I, can actually become ***of one Accord***, of one mind, both, with each other, and with Messiah. I hope you can see and understand that what Paul wants for all the people that he is talking to, which of course includes us, ***IS*** that we learn to ***EMULATE MESSIAH***, as he, Paul, ***EMULATES MESSIAH***, and that means, that we are to live a totally surrendered Torah obedient life, as Messiah did, and taught us to so, for His Torah obedient ***LIFE, IS*** our example, our role model, our ***GOAL***.

Verse 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory;

Strife is Strong's number G2052 ἐριθεία, Eriθεία, perhaps as the same as G2042, intrigue, faction; contention, contentious, strife.

Vainglory is Strong's number G2754 κενοδοξία, Kenodoxía, is from G2755, and it means, empty glorying, self-conceit, vain-glory.

Paul is telling us not to do things out of ***anger*** or ***despair***, but, we are to ***submit*** our wills to Elohim, and joyfully believe, follow and obey ***ALL*** the Words of Elohim's Torah of Life, with surrendered, loving, contrite, obedient hearts, and then he finished the verse by saying, ***BUT in lowliness of mind, let each esteem others better than themselves.***

Why are we to esteem others ***better*** than ourselves? Well, each and every one of us knows or should know, the evil that is within our own hearts, (*Jeremiah 19:7, The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*) but we are ***NOT*** equipped with the ability to judge what is on anyone else's heart, therefore, since we cannot judge what is in other peoples' hearts, then we must assume, that their heart is not as evil as our own heart can potentially be.

Verse 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

According to Paul, we are to be ***MORE*** concerned about our neighbours than we are, about ourselves, in other words, we are to have the heart of Messiah, and actually become our brother's keeper.

Verse 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Messiah Yeshua:

Now I want you to try and imagine what kind of world this would be, **IF**, all the people that profess to believe in the Elohim of Abraham Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov, **had the mind of Messiah?** If that were the case, then, I believe that this world of ours, would be a Utopian world, a world filled with love for Elohim and for mankind. Since it is obvious, that that, **IS NOT THE CASE, WHAT** does that tell us? Well, it should be evident, that very few people, actually have the mind of Messiah, very **FEW** have a fully loving surrendered obedient heart and mind, to our heavenly Father. This then tells us, you and me, that we have a lot of work to do in our own lives, **IF WE** are to achieve the lofty goal **of having the Mind of Messiah within us.**

Just try and imagine for moment, what we could do, **IF** just the few of us, who are here, in this room today, could actually achieve that lofty goal of having the **Mind of Messiah**, dwell within us, **what potential influence we could have on this defiled world of ours?** Messiah and His surrendered attitude to the Words of the Father's directives for everlasting Life, the Words of the Father's Torah, **CHANGED** the world, which means, **that we too** could change the world to align more with the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, **IF** we had the **MIND OF MESSIAH**, dwelling within our hearts. I know that **IT IS** a very lofty Goal to shoot for, but I believe, **it is ONE that we should ALL aspire to attain.** Amen

Verse 6 Who, being in the form of Elohim, did NOT think it robbery to be equal with Elohim:

What we have to understand here, is that when we fully surrender our wills to our heavenly Father, Scripture says that **BOTH** the Father and the Son **come and make their abode within us.** Well, **IF that is true, THEN**, when we are actually in that state of loving surrendered obedience to the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of life, it means, that Elohim is actually in control of, and running our lives, and, **IF** Elohim is indeed in control of, and running our lives, **THEN**, that means that we **ARE** the **instruments**, or the **vessels** of Elohim, and, as such, we become **LIKE** Elohim, because we are doing **HIS WILL**. So, **IF** Messiah, who was fully surrendered and obedient to our heavenly Father, did **NOT** think it robbery, to be equal to Elohim, **in His fully surrendered state, THEN**, we too, **when we are in a fully surrendered state**, should understand what privilege it is to have our heavenly Father be in control of our lives and making us, act as Elohim.

Verse 7 But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

I hope that you can see and truly understand what Paul is conveying to us here, when he tells us what Messiah did and taught us to do? Messiah chose to **FULLY** surrender His life to our heavenly Father, and He **only DID what the Father wanted Him to do**, and because He chose to obey our heavenly Father, He was **LIKE** Elohim, our heavenly Father. We too, my friends, can have the **Mind of Messiah** and learn to **FULLY** surrender our wills to our heavenly Father, and only **DO what He wants us to do**, and, **IF** and **WHEN** we can learn to do that, we **WILL be LIKE Elohim, BUT**, we **must realize**, that **IF** we are truly surrendered to the Father, it means, that **our Life, IS His, EVEN** onto death. This is a very important detail, that all people, who profess to have surrendered their will to our heavenly Father's Will, have to understand, and that is, **our life is NO LONGER our own, our life BELONGS** to our heavenly Father, and, because of it, we **MUST** be ready at **ALL times to DIE for Him, IF** that is what we are called

to do, even as Messiah was called to do. As you can see, it is **NOT** easy to have the **Mind of Messiah**, because it comes with the extremely difficult task, of being fully surrendered to our heavenly Father in every aspect of our lives.

Verse 9 Wherefore Elohim also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name: 10 That at the Name of Yeshua, (What is the name of Yeshua, that) every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 and that every tongue should confess that Yeshua Messiah IS Master, to the glory of Elohim the Father.

Messiah Yeshua's name is made clear in *Isaiah 54:5* where it says: *For your Maker, IS your husband; Yahweh of hosts IS HIS NAME; Your Redeemer, the Holy One of Yisrael; The Elohim of the whole earth, shall He be called.*

Based on what Isaiah said, we have to clarify **WHO** our Maker is, according to Scripture?

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word was Elohim. 2 The same was in the beginning with Elohim. 3 ALL THINGS, THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM; and without Him, was not any thing made that was made. 4 In Him (the Words of Living Torah made flesh) was Life; and that Life, was the light of men. John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of GRACE and TRUTH.

This tells us that Messiah is the Word of our heavenly Father made flesh, and since it is the word of Yahweh that created **ALL** things, it means that Messiah, **IS** our Maker.

Who is our **husband**, our **bridegroom**, according to Scripture?

Jeremiah 31:31-33 Behold, the days come, says Yahweh, that I will make a renewed Covenant with the house of Yisrael, and with the house of Judah: 32 Not according to the Covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which My Covenant THEY broke, although I, was an HUSBAND unto them, says Yahweh: 33 But this shall be the Covenant that I will make with the house of Yisrael; After those days, says Yahweh, I will put, My Torah, in their inward parts, and write My Torah in their hearts; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people.

John 3:26-30 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, He that was with you beyond Jordan, to whom you bear witness, behold, the same baptizes, and all men come to Him. 27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Messiah, BUT that I am sent before Him. 29 He that has the Bride is the Bridegroom: BUT the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears Him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. 30 He (the bridegroom, Messiah/Yahweh) must increase, but I must decrease.

According to Scripture, Messiah/Yahweh **IS** our **bridegroom and our husband**. We are also told that Yahweh of Hosts **IS** His Name, then, we are told that He is our Redeemer, and Scripture makes it clear, that Messiah **IS** our Redeemer?

*Isaiah 43:14 Thus says Yahweh your **Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel**; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.*

*Isaiah 60:16 You shall also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shall suck the breast of kings: and you shall **KNOW** that I Yahweh, am your **Saviour** and your **Redeemer, the mighty One of Ya'aqov**.*

*Jeremiah 50:34 Their **Redeemer** is strong; **Yahweh of hosts IS His Name**: he shall thoroughly plead their cause, that He may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon.*

Then Isaiah tells us He (*Messiah/Yahweh*) **IS** The Holy One of Yisrael, and that He is to be called, **the Elohim of the whole earth**. All these verses confirm that Messiah **IS** Yahweh, and Yahweh, **IS** Messiah, the Elohim of the whole earth.

This, my friends, **IS** the **reward** that all people who choose to live a fully surrendered Torah obedient life will receive, because they chose to follow in the footsteps of Messiah;

*Matthew 7:13 Enter you in at the strait (stenos, narrow) gate: **for wide** (Platos, broad) **is the gate, and broad** (Eurychoros, spacious) **is the way, that leads to DESTRUCTION, and there are MANY that will go in thereat**: 14 Because strait (stenos, narrow) is the gate, and **narrow** (Thlibo, afflict, narrow, throng, suffer tribulation, trouble) **is the way, which leads unto life, and few** (Oligos, little, few) **there be that find it**.*

As you know, I believe that numbers, in Scripture, are very important, and I also believe that our heavenly Father was instrumental in influencing the people that put our Scriptures together and I believe that *Matthew 7:13-14* is proof of that **FACT**.

I do **NOT** believe it is a coincidence that in Chapter 7 of Matthew where the number 7 speaks of completion and rest, in *verse 13 of Matthew*, where the number 13 speaks of destruction, for the number **thirteen** in Scripture speaks of **rebellion** which always leads to destruction of the rebellious person, and the next *verse, verse 14* speaks of the narrow way which **leads onto life** and the number **fourteen** in Scripture represents **Salvation**, for it is on the 14th of Aviv that the Passover Lamb is killed.

*Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, **NOT** as in my presence only, but now, much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling.*

As you know, I believe and teach that **salvation** is a journey, and that it is not a specific event that happens in ones life. I believe that once a person decides to surrender their heart, mind, soul and strength to our heavenly Father and His Son, our Master and Saviour, who also happens to be the Words of the Living Torah of our Father made flesh, our Messiah, that all of their **PAST** sins, their past Torah transgressions, **ARE** forgiven, as we are told by Paul in *Romans 3:25 Whom Elohim has set forth to be a propitiation through belief (faith), through believing in his blood, believing in the Torah obedient Life that Messiah lived, and to declare*

His righteousness for the remission of Sins THAT ARE PAST, through the forbearance of Elohim;

However, here in *Philippians 2*, Paul admonishes the beloved of Elohim, who of course **ARE** the believers in Messiah, to **WORK OUT THEIR OWN SALVATION with fear and trembling. NOW IF**, like the church fathers teach their followers, that **we are already saved, THEN** why does Paul admonish **ALL** believers to **Work Out Their Own Salvation?** Furthermore, why would Paul say of himself in *Philippians 3:7-14*, *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Messiah. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Messiah Yeshua my Master: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but DUNG, that I may WIN Messiah, 9 And be found in Him, NOT having my own righteousness, WHICH IS OF THE TORAH, BUT that which is through the Belief of Messiah, the RIGHTEOUSNESS which is of Elohim by BELIEF: That I may know (Yada, be in an intimate relationship with) Messiah, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; 11 If by any means I MIGHT ATTAIN unto the RESURRECTION of the dead (which of course IS a metaphor for Salvation). 12 Not as though I had already (Salvation), either were already perfect: (Teleioo, complete, fulfilled, accomplished) but I, Paul, follow after; if that I may apprehend (Katalambano, possess, seized, obtain salvation) that for which also I am apprehended (Katalambano, possess, seized, obtained salvation) of Messiah Yeshua (salvation). 13 Brethren, I do NOT count myself, to have apprehended (Katalambano, possess, seized, obtained salvation): BUT this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press TOWARD the mark for the prize of the high calling of Elohim in Messiah Yeshua (which of course, IS salvation).*

As you can see for yourself, even Paul affirms that he himself **DOES NOT HAVE SALVATION YET, BUT**, he is **working** towards attaining and or apprehending his salvation.

Verse 13 For it is Elohim who WORKS IN YOU, both TO WILL and TO DO of His Good, (Tov), pleasure.

As you can see by Paul's words, it is our heavenly Father that **WORKS** in us, both to **WILL** and to **DO** His **Good pleasure**. Based on what Paul has just said here, we have to ask ourselves, what is Elohim's **Good pleasure?** In Scripture we are told that our heavenly Father's wish, **IS**, that **NOT EVEN ONE** of His created human beings would perish. How do we perish according to Scripture, we perish through living a sinful life, and according to Scripture the wages of Sin, **IS** death, and we are told *1John 3:4*, that **SIN IS** the transgression of the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, therefore, the **Good Pleasure** of our heavenly Father is that we would **ALL** learn to keep, follow and obey **ALL** the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of life, so that we may **LIVE**. Furthermore, the word, **Tov**, that is translated as Good, means, to function in the manner that our heavenly Father created all of mankind to function, and that is, in total loving surrendered obedience to **ALL** the Words of His Torah of Life

*Verse 14 Do ALL things without murmurings and disputings:
WHY?*

*15 So that you may be **blameless and harmless, the sons of Elohim, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you shine as lights in the world;***

If we have truly surrendered our whole beings to Elohim, in the manner that we are commanded to do, **THEN**, we are His servants, and **IF** our old man is truly dead, **then** Messiah Lives in us, and there **IS no murmuring nor disputings** in Him. Therefore, **IF** we can truly live in that state of mind, where we have the **Mind of Messiah within us**, then we **WILL** be **blameless and harmless**, and we will have the privilege of being called the **sons of Elohim**, and be **without rebuke**, even though we are in the midst of a **crooked and perverse** nation. And, best of all, we **WILL shine as LIGHTS** in the World, **FOR**, Messiah, **WHO IS the Light of the World, WILL** be shining in and through us, in the same manner that the Father shone in and through Messiah, **AND** the Father did many miracles, in and through Messiah, when Messiah was here on earth. *Acts 2:22 You men of Yisrael, hear these words; Yeshua of Nazareth, a man approved of Elohim among you, by miracles and wonders and signs, which Elohim DID BY HIM in the midst of you, as you yourselves also know.*

What we have to understand is that Messiah **IS** the Living Word of the Father, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life made flesh, and therefore, since there **IS NO murmuring or disputings** in the Word of Elohim, there can be **NO murmuring or disputings** in us, when we willingly and lovingly choose to internalize the Words of His Torah of Life.

Psalm 19:7-11 The Torah (Law) of Yahweh IS perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of Yahweh IS sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of Yahweh ARE right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of Yahweh IS pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of Yahweh is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of Yahweh ARE true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they, than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

As you can see, there is **great reward** in doing **ALL** things **WITHOUT murmuring** and disputing, for it means that both the Father and the Son **have**, and will continue to make their abode within us. Amein

Verse 16 Holding forth the Word of life (the Torah); that I may rejoice in the day of Messiah,

The day of Messiah, **IS** when He returns as our conquering King, to conquer the world and bring the fulfilment of the Father's redemption onto salvation plan, to fruition.

Paul again states that he does **ALL** of this, so that he does **NOT live his life in vain**, and, so that **he will receive the prize of eternal salvation at the end of his race**, and the **RACE** that Paul is talking about **IS**, a shadow picture of his life here on earth. For salvation my friends, **IS** a promise that Elohim has given to all people, who willingly choose, to show their love for Him, by choosing to lovingly believe, follow and obey **ALL** the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, **FOR** according to Paul, **ALL** people who willingly and lovingly chose to obey the Words of Elohim, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Directives for everlasting Life, the Words of His Torah, **have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.**

*Verse 17 Yea, and **IF**, I am offered upon the sacrifice and service of your belief (faith), I joy, and rejoice with you all.*

We all know what Paul suffered for the furtherance of the Gospel, and how he finally died. Can any of us, here today, in this room, or any of you that are reading this now, **SAY**, that your lives, are so surrendered to Elohim, that you would rejoice, if you had to live the kind of life that Paul lived? Please be honest with yourselves as you answer this question, because, it might be one of the questions that our heavenly Father will ask all of us on judgement Day. We have to understand, that all of us, **ARE** at different levels of surrender in our lives, there are probably areas in your life where you are totally surrendered to Elohim, and maybe there are other areas of your life, where there is still work to be done. I know that that is the case for me, **BUT**, I thank Elohim, that through His grace, mercy and because I have experienced his forgiving nature, that I have at least begun the journey, and it is a journey that is filled with joy, because I know, that **IF** I willingly continue on this path of learning to be totally surrendered to our heavenly Father and His Messiah, that I will hear them say to me, one day, **Well Done Good and Faithful Servant**. Amen

Verse 28 For the same cause also do you joy, and rejoice with me. 19 But I trust in Adonai Yeshua to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

Paul says that he will send Timotheus to them, so that he can report back to Paul of the state that the assembly, the qahal, the ekklesia is, in Philippi.

Verse 20 For I have no man, like minded, who will naturally care for your state.

As you can see, it is important that we surround ourselves with **like minded people** and **NOT** people that seek their own doctrines or philosophies, that conflict with, or outright contradict the Words of Gospel, the Torah of **TRUTH**.

*21 For all seek their own, **NOT** the things which are Yeshua Messiah's.*

It is a very sad state of affairs when we hear Paul talk about the people of Elohim, in this manner, because they, as I hope you can clearly see, they were **NOT** doing the things which are of Messiah, which means, they were **NOT** doing nor following the Words of our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of life, for Messiah, **IS** the words of the Torah of our heavenly Father made flesh.

Verse 22 But you know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he has served with me in the Gospel (Truth, Torah). 23 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

Paul describes the attributes of Timotheus, and that he is like a son to him, and that he hopes that he will be able to send Timotheus to visit these Philippians, to give them news of how he Paul is doing, and also, to report back to Paul as to the faithfulness of the Philippians in keeping and preaching the Gospel of Messiah.

Verse 24 But I trust in Adonai, that I also myself shall come shortly. 25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother, and companion in labour, and fellow soldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. 26 For, he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that you had heard that he had been sick.

Paul shows his concern for the Philippians by sending *Epaphroditus*, one of their own, to minister to them, so that they will have proof, that although he was ill, that he had fully recovered from his illness, and that the Philippians need no longer worry about him.

Verse 27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but Elohim had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

Here Paul is simply affirming that it is by, and through Yahweh's mercy, that we are healed of our diseases, and it is no different for *Epaphroditus*, for it is indeed Yahweh, that healed him, so that he could and would continue, in the furtherance of the Gospel, the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Truth, the Words of His Torah of Life.

*Verse 28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when you see him again, **you may rejoice**, and that I may be the less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Master, with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:*

Paul is asking the Philippians to hold *Epaphroditus*, in high regard, because of his dedication to the Gospel of Messiah, and to Paul, and to rejoice in the knowledge that his illness has passed and that he is well.

Verse 30 Because for the work of Messiah he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

Here we see that *Epaphroditus*, was working so hard for the furtherance of the Gospel that he probably neglected his own health and fell ill, **BUT**, we are told that Yahweh saw fit to heal him, because of his dedication to the Gospel. What we have to realise, **IS**, that Paul and his disciples, including all of the other apostles, were so dedicated to the furtherance of the Gospel, that their personal well being was secondary to them. Yahweh does **NOT** want us to work till we fall over or are sick, and can no longer go on, however, He does want to see that kind of dedication, and when He encounters it, He ensures that the people that have that kind of attitude, are protected by His grace, mercy, love and compassion. We should rejoice in that knowledge, for if He did it for them, and since Scripture affirms that He does **NOT** change, then, we can rest assured that He will do it for **ALL** people who willingly dedicate their lives to the furtherance of Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting Truth, the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, also called the Gospel of Messiah. Amein

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again; Shalom Alechem! Amein!

