HOPE SABBATH SCHOOL

Inspired Letters from Prison:
Philippians and Colossians

Part #4 UNITY IN CHRIST

Scripture Song: Rejoice always – 1 Thess. 5:16-18, Phil. 4:6

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing our series on Inspired Letters from Prison. Today's topic from Philippians: UNITY IN CHRIST.

1) The problem of disunity

a. Philippians 2:1-3a What were some reasons for disunity among the Christians in Philippi?
b. What were some other causes of disunity in the early Christian church? 1 Corinthians 1:11-13, Luke 22:24, etc.
c. What are some major causes of disunity among Christians today?
d. Share a time you belonged to a group that was experiencing disunity. How did this disunity impact you personally?
e. What counsel would you give to someone who is being negatively impacted by a spirit of disunity?

2) The antidote for disunity

a. According to the Apostle Paul, what is the antidote for disunity? Philippians 2:3-4
b. Which part of this antidote impresses you the most? (being like-minded, having the same love, etc.)
c. How is it possible for everyone to have the same agape love? Romans 5:5, Luke 11:13
d. How does a spirit of humility and love reflect the mind of Christ? Philippians 2:5
e. Share an example from the New Testament of a follower of Jesus whose life was a revelation of the mind of Christ.
f. How can we have the mind of Christ? 1 Corinthians 2:16, Romans 12:2
g. What changes have you noticed in your life since you have asked God to renew your mind?

3) The exaltation of Jesus

a. Philippians 2:6-8 Where can we see the greatest demonstration of humility and agape love?
b. What impresses you the most as you reflect of this inspired testimony of Christ's humility and self-sacrificing love?
c. Who has helped you to appreciate more fully the self-sacrificing love of Jesus?
d. How did God the Father respond to Christ's demonstration of humility and agape love? Philippians 2:9-11
e. How does the exaltation of Jesus bring glory to God the Father? John 14:8-11
f. How should we respond to Jesus, considering all He has done for us? John 20:26-28, Revelation 5:11-14, etc.
g. How can we help others to see a clearer revelation of the immeasurable, unfailing love of God?