Introduction

Questions to ask at your table:

- What's something that brought you JOY this week?
- Describe a place/situation in which you need HOPE right now.
- What's one thing you have to do, but don't like to do?
- If you had to describe Jesus to someone who didn't know him, what would you say?

In Chapter One, St. Paul encouraged the Philippian Christians by reminding them that no matter what comes their way (i.e. persecution and suffering) that proclaiming Christ and his redeeming work is always worth it. THIS will always be the _____ _____. For St. Paul, ***"To live is Christ and to die is gain" (1:21).***

Oswald Chambers, in his devotional classic *My Utmost for HIs Highest*, says of St. Paul, "Paul spent himself for one purpose only – that he might win men to Jesus Christ. Paul attracted to Jesus all the time, never to himself…Paul became a sacramental personality; wherever he went, Jesus Christ helped Himself to his life."[1]

Chapter 2 - *Humility and Obedience*

Chapter 2 Observations -

Share at your table:

- What stood out to you in this cursory reading?

- Describe the theme(s) of chapter two in a few words of sentences.

Completed Joy (v. 1-2)

[1] Chambers, Oswald *My Utmost for His Highest*, Simpkin & Marshal 1927

- When, and with what, did St. Paul's joy begin (1:12-18)?

- What actually completes St. Paul's joy?

    - Same _____ :

        - Romans 12:2 -

        - Ephesians 4:17-24 -

        - 1 Corinthians 2:12-16 -

    - Same _____ :

        - Deuteronomy 6:4-9 -

        - Mark 12:28-31 -

        - Section 1 of Luther's Small Catechism -

        - 1 John 3:16 -

Greater Clarity (v. 3-5a)
What does this mind and heart look like…practically speaking?

- *"Do nothing out of…"*

    - Genesis 2:1-7, 15-17 -

    - Genesis 3:1-6 -

    - The Proper Place/Posture of Humanity -

    - Selfish Ambition/Conceit/Vain Glory/Pride -

- *"But rather…"*
    - Proverbs 22:4 -
    - 1 Peter 5:5b-6 -
    - James 4:6-7a -
    - C.S. Lewis, in Mere Christianity, says, *"If any one would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud... Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call 'humble'... He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all."*[2]
    - Rick Warren summarized Lewis when he said, *"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less."*[3]
    - If pride is putting oneself at the _____ of the _____. Then humility is allowing God to _____ the _____.
- *"Let each of you look…"*
    - Being a part of the church - the gathering of Jesus followers - is about "one-another-ing."
    - There are _____ direct commands to one another one another: love, serve, encourage, bear with, confess, forgive, sing and even _____ (just making sure you're paying attention).

Conclusion

Questions for the table:

- What stood out today?
- What's comforting about the text we read?
- What's challenging about the text we read?
- Luther, in his Large Catechism, teaches that *pride* is the root of all sin. Describe how you think that's true.
- What's one way to live in humility this week?
- Share one prayer with others at the table.

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[2] Lewis, CS *Mere Christianity,* Book 3, Chapter 8

[3] Warren, Rick *The Purpose Driven Life*