



WOW: Word Of the Week

Same-Minded (Philippians 2)

October 21, 2020

I love the text! I want you to love the text! How powerful are the words of God! The first step toward knowing the text is developing a love for the text – dwelling in the Word so that the word of Christ dwells in us richly. I often hear sermons, good sermons, and my mind races to texts that would have focused the preacher's point with much greater power. As one of my undergraduate professors was fond of saying to us students, "You have the right message, but the wrong text." He was referring to proof-texting doctrine by piling up a mountain of verses, but the principle has many applications.

Words from the book of Philippians – single-minded, same-minded, spiritually-minded, secure. In many translations the repetition that Paul uses to introduce Chapter 2 is absent. What we think, how we think, matters! Paul uses the same word twice in v. 2 and again in v. 5; eight times in four chapters.

When we learn to have the same mind as Christ, when Christians share the same mind, the same purpose, the same spirit, the church truly declares the message of Christ to the world – in actions, attitudes, and words!

Being same-minded depends on clearly seeing Christ. There is no value in agreeing on falsehoods. A lie does not become truth because more people proclaim it or believe it.

Paul does not say it with the same precise wording, but the challenge to "shine as stars as we hold out the word of life" depends on same-mindedness. Timothy and Epaphroditus are shining examples of what happens when Christians are same-minded with Christ.

Same-mindedness is of no value unless it is based on the mind of Christ. Unless same-mindedness lines up with the mind of Christ, while there may be unity and peace in a church, the power is missing. The results are meager. The church may be busy with a host of activities and ministries, but the harvest ruins in the fields. Good things may be done, but the best things are left undone.

The submissive, sacrificial mind of Christ sends us forth with a song in our hearts and his words on our lips. Same-mindedness is one of the keys to being the body of Christ. How could a church claim to be the body of Christ and not think like the head? How could a church claim to be the body of Christ and not do what the head wants and commands?

Philippians 2 – same-minded. We may not use this word frequently, but it provides us a good summary of our calling in Christ! Our lives will never be the same when our thinking finally lines up with the mind of Christ.