

Jahdiel Cruz

NT 637/737—Philippians: Spring 2023

Professor Shawn Craigmiles

Written Assignment #2

Date: March 27, 2023

Please answer the following questions, remembering to properly cite any sources that you use.

1. Trace out (summarize) the logic of Paul’s argument in the portion of the body of the letter that we have covered thus far (1:27-2:30). In preparation for this assignment, please consult pages 98-100 of Schreiner’s *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles* to see what he says about propositions and their relationships to one another. [**At least** one and one-half (1½) pages, but maybe more, as needed.]
 - a. For this passage, identify Paul’s main propositions, section by section, and explain the relationship between the propositions that went before and those that follow? Which conjunctions are used, and what do they indicate about the relationships between the propositions? What is Paul asserting/claiming/arguing? What reasons and evidence does he use to support what he is saying?
 1. **Chapter 1:27-30-** This section revolves around the proposition in verse 27, where the apostle Paul instructs the Philippians to “conduct” themselves. Such that Paul’s words in this section have to do with this proposition, expanding on what he means by “conducting themselves” (NASB), and describing what it would look like to be following that advice.¹ Consequently, being worthy of the gospel of Christ, standing firm in one spirit, having one mind, striving for the faith, and not being alarmed by opponents are propositions that would be subservient to the proposition of “conduct”.² Yet at the end of this section, in verses 29-30, there are some coordinate propositions to “conduct”, which include believing and suffering like Jesus and Paul.
 2. **Chapter 2:1-11-** These verses contain in them Paul’s description of Jesus humbling himself to the death by the cross. For this next portion, the proposition that guides the rest is located in verse 5, whereby the point is to imitate Jesus Christ. The characteristic traits detailed in the first four verses are propositions subordinate to the proposition of imitating Jesus. As a result, encouragement, consolation of love, affection, compassion, being of the same mind and spirit, and humility, are character traits that depend upon imitating the person of Christ. The rest of the verses after verse 5, are propositions that are coordinates of the proposition having the attitude

1 Spiros Zodhiates, *Key Word Study Bible* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2008), 1574.

2 Spiros Zodhiates, *Key Word Study Bible* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2008), 1574.

of Jesus. Verses 6-11 describe in what ways Jesus humbled himself and demonstrated the characteristics already mentioned in the first four verses. Whereas verse 6 starts this part of the section with a contrast by stating what Jesus didn't do (regarding himself equal with God), the rest of the verses establish what he did do that is worthy of imitating. Paul proves what he says in verse 6, by writing what Jesus did in incarnating in the flesh, finally dying in the cross. It's in this part that the kenosis comes into play. By the end of this portion, Paul takes his argument to a climactic point by discussing how God exalted Jesus because he humbled himself in the way he did, thus giving him the glory of having authority over all things.

3. **Chapter 2:12-18-** the verses referred to here are held together by two propositions, one in verse 12 when believers are instructed to work out their salvation, and verse 16, where they are instructed to hold to the word. The propositions of being blameless, innocent, working without complaining (among other propositions) are subordinate to working out the salvation. On the other hand, Paul's cause to glory in the Philippians is subordinate to holding on to the word. This leads to his expression of joy, even if he is to be sacrificed (Paul uses a comparison to the sacrifice of libation).³
 4. **Chapter 2:19-30-** This next section presents Timothy and Epaphroditus as examples of good collaborators and workers with Paul. While explaining the circumstances of their trip to Philipos, Paul explains how these two men have been an example to follow. The portion of verses 19-24 is focused on Timothy, while verses 25-30 are focused on Epaphroditus. Here, the propositions follow Paul's idea of sending them to the church for support. Paul's descriptions of his two collaborators form propositions that are subordinate to his expression of sending them.
- b. English students need to pay attention to conceptual subordination of ideas, while Greek students will also consider the use of specific Greek coordinate and subordinate conjunctions. *This is the most difficult part of the assignment and requires careful observations. You are not expected to duplicate Schreiner's method perfectly, but you should be familiar enough with it that you can attempt to unpack Paul's message. Especially consult pages 122–124 Schreiner's book. I am not asking you to produce a chart like he has on page 123. I am asking you to discuss the flow of the argument and the conjunctions used like Schreiner does on pages 122 and 124. Please consult the sample documents that I provided on the E360 course page to see exactly what I am looking for in this assignment.*
1. **Chapter 1:27-30-** "Conduct yourselves", conceptual subordination of ideas under this proposition include
 - a. "so that..." - if he goes or not to Philippos

³ Thomas S. Shreiner, *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011), 99-100.

- b. "I may..."- hear that they are standing firm in one spirit and with one mind, as well as "striving" for the faith, and not alarmed by their enemies
 - i. "For to you..."- Because they have been granted to believe in Jesus Christ, and suffer for him
2. **Chapter 2:1-11**- "Have this attitude..." (the attitude found in Christ Jesus), under which the following conceptual subordination of ideas occur:
- a. "if therefore there is..."
 - i. encouragement, consolation of love, fellowship, affection, and compassion
 - b. "Make my joy..."
 - i. Same mind, same love, united in spirit, one purpose
 - c. "Do nothing..."
 - i. selfish, conceit, but with humility
 - d. "Do not merely..."
 - i. look out for yourself
 - ii. look for the interests of others
 - e. Coordinate propositions (Jesus)
 - i. "did not regard equality..."
 - ii. "emptied himself..."
 - 1. bond-servant
 - 2. likeness of men
 - iii. "humbled himself..."
 - 1. obedient
 - 2. death on a cross
 - iv. "God highly exalted him..."
 - 1. bestowed the name above all names
 - 2. every tongue confess
 - 3. to the glory of the Father
3. **Chapter 2:12-18**- based upon two coordinate propositions, "work out your salvation", and "holding fast the word", with which the following conceptual subordination of ideas occur:
- a. "obeyed"
 - b. Fear and trembling
 - c. "to will and to work for his good pleasure"
 - d. "Do all things"
 - i. without grumbling or disputing
 - e. "That you may prove yourselves..."
 - i. blameless
 - ii. innocent
 - iii. above reproach
 - f. "so that in the day of Christ"
 - i. may have cause of glory
 - g. "But even if..."

- i. poured out as a sacrifice
 - ii. service of your faith
 - iii. Rejoice and share joy
 - iv. I urge you
 - 1. rejoice in the same way
- 4. **Chapter 2:19-30-** Propositions of importance in this section are “send to you”, with which the following conceptual subordination of ideas occur:
 - a. “But I hope...”
 - i. to send Timothy and be encouraged
 - b. “But you know of...”
 - i. proven worth
 - c. “I trust in the Lord...”
 - i. I myself shall be coming shortly
 - d. “I thought it necessary...”
 - i. send to you
 - ii. fellow worker
 - iii. fellow soldier
 - e. “Therefore receive him...”
 - i. with all joy

2. Choose a keyword from this section to study within the context of Paul’s writings. Key Tools: The commentaries required for the course, an analytical concordance, Greek-based dictionary such as Louw & Nida, a Greek lexicon, such as BDAG, journal articles, etc. ***If you are having trouble accessing these resources in Logos, Accordance, Bibleworks, etc., please let me know. Please do not resort to public domain online resources such as Strong's, Thayer's, etc. I will be happy to help you find more recent resources. I want you to have the benefit of using a modern Bible dictionary, lexicon, etc., for this word study. [At least 1/2 page, but maybe more, as needed].***
 1. conduct- 4176. *politeuomai*, middle of a derivative of 4177; to *behave* as a citizen (figurative):--let conversation be, live.⁴
 2. The vocabulary used for the word “conduct” denotes a term that “sometimes applied to a citizen in a free state”.⁵ In the Jewish context, it was a term used for people who obeyed the law (such as in the books of the Maccabees).
 3. This Greek term makes sense in the context of the history of Philippi as a city full of Roman citizens. It also makes sense in connection with Paul’s use of the concept of citizenship to describe how believers belong to heaven.

3. Articulate five (5) strategic questions raised from this biblical passage that you consider worth investigating further, and give your reasons why you chose these questions (e.g., the theological implications of the answer will affect the kind of disposition one has toward suffering) ***[At least 1/2 page, but may be more, as needed].***

Question 1- What more can be learned from the word “conduct”?

Why?- This question connects to the possible topic for my final paper, linking this reference to the concept of citizenship of heaven used by Paul in chapter 3 of Phillipians.

⁴ Spiros Zodhiates, *Key Word Study Bible* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2008), 2257.

⁵ Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*, (Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2014), 559.

Question 2- Could it be possible that Philippians 2:6-11 may be an ancient Christian hymn that Paul quoted? And if so, how would we know for sure?

Why?- This question goes into the sources that Paul used for his letters, which may have included hymns that give us a better picture of ancient Christian liturgy.

Question 3- Is the term “emptied” in reference to Christ in any way connected to the concept of pouring a drink offering? A libation?

Why?- I believe this question to be important due to the great debates that exist regarding Kenosian theories and theologies. This question leads back to Isaiah, and looking further into the same chapter, Paul uses the vocabulary of pouring out a drink offering to express his willingness to give his life as a sacrifice.

Question 4- What does Paul mean in chapter 2 verse 16 by “holding fast the word of life”?

Why?- this question might go into understanding how the word of God is applied by the believer on a daily basis.

Question 5

Why?

4. Draw out the significance for today of one of Paul’s theological positions. **[Use as much space as you see fit for this].**
 1. What are the practical or ethical implications of Paul’s position for your particular faith communities?
 - a. The practical and ethical implications of Paul’s position for our faith community would guide the believers in treating each other more with love and respect. The idea of seeing others as superiors to ourselves goes beyond seeing each other as equals. Our modern thinking has taken the idea of equality and has applied in ways that exalts certain groups over others, or individuals over other individuals.
 - b. The humility of Jesus Christ is the perfect example of having much to brag about and exercise power. And yet he didn’t, and instead gave us the maximum example

of humility and self-sacrifice. The overwhelming attitude in the West as of late has been to search within oneself for answers and improvements. Rather than a better me, Jesus' example exhorts us to become new.

2. What steps would you take to help your faith community become spiritually formed in this area?
 - a. The steps I would take to help my faith community become spiritually formed in this area would be through workshops and Bible studies on this matter. Bible studies that challenge the believers into thinking, learning, and applying the lessons learned.

Bibliography

Keener, Craig S. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2014.

Schreiner, Thomas S. *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011.

Zodhiate, Spiros. *Key Word Study Bible*. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2008.