

Sermon Outline – Rev. Jim Stuart
“The Urgent Reminder”
July 12, 2015

- I. Paul learned of how the ministry was going in Philippi from Epaphroditus, and wrote a letter to the congregation.
 - A. From Philippians 2:1-4 can surmise there was self-serving behavior and disunity around the church’s purpose in the congregation.
 1. The common malady in churches today too, given our human nature.
 2. The key question always: are we growing in our unity of purpose? Growing in emptying ourselves?
- II. What is the church’s primary purpose? Matthew 28:18-20.
 - A. The church at Philippi was becoming distracted and divided from her primary purpose..... churches today guilty of the same.
 1. Members want their church to be the way they want it for them.
 2. We get bogged down with arguing and complaining over minutiae instead of engaging together in our primary job....
 3. By and large, churches today are more keepers of the aquarium than they are fishers of men and women.
- III. So Paul exhorts the Philippians and every congregation today with the Bible’s most urgent reminder: Philippians 2:5-11.
 - A. The reminder is of the central event of our faith, that created and defines our life together: Jesus’ act of humble, obedient servanthood which accomplished our salvation.
 - B. We’re reminded to grow in having this same mindset of Jesus, as we move forward together to fulfil our primary purpose.
 - C. This is not a guilt trip.... but an urgent reminder.
 1. “Since you’ve so known encouragement / comfort / fellowship / tenderness / compassion from the Lord, now build on this by being of the same attitude as Jesus....”
- IV. Paul also reminds us – verses 9-11 – how Jesus is now exalted Lord of lords, and that “every knee should bow and every tongue should confess that He is Lord.”
 - A. This central event of our faith should bring forth every person’s worship and allegiance.
 - B. As humble, obedient, self-emptying servants, we are to be about evangelism / mission....
 - C. We are to grow as fishers of men and women, and not just be keepers of the aquarium.
 - D. A way to begin....
- V. Final reminder: To accomplish the Lord’s purpose for the church, we need fresh empowerings of the Holy Spirit.
 - A. Fresh daily empowerings to have the mindset and attitude of Jesus.
- VI. Take-home exercise.