

Servants to Model Your Life After Philippians 2:17-18

¹⁷ Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

Introduction:

A dictionary defines

ex·am·ple (ĭg-zăm'pəl)

n.

1. One that is representative of a group as a whole: *the squirrel, an example of a rodent; introduced each new word with examples of its use.*
2. One serving as a pattern of a specific kind: *set a good example by arriving on time.*
3. A similar case that constitutes a model or precedent: *a unique episode, without example in maritime history.*

With this in mind We come to a passage that represents for us the example or model of service for Christ. What God expects of all of us. These who are found in scripture that we will look at are not just followers of Christ that we can Applaud, but rather we are suppose to model. Follow after, imitate. From Jesus, and the apostles, we gain great insight in to what is meant for us as believers.

The Bottom Line, The all encompassing word, The summation of all the Christians life is the word SACRIFICE

We do not understand that much or in some cases not at all in our day. It sounds like an old archaic word of civilizations in the past.

We do think in some cases that we are sacrificing. That there are moments when we ascend into the realm of the spiritual and commit the unthinkable.....sacrifice

For example

We decide to eat at McDonalds instead of a nice sit down restaurant.

We turn the TV off an hour early to read the Bible or we get up 30 minutes early to read and pray

We take the kids to there activity so we can have some sacrificial quite time at home

We give 11 percent instead of 10 to the church

We come 2 minutes early to church and stay just long enough for the lines to die down at our favorite restaurant

We go to the beach for the kids instead of the mountains where we really would like to go.

My personal story of my 64 Chevrolet truck "Country Cadillac"

Really, in most cases we have no idea what it means to give sacrificially of our possessions and our lives

This is clearly seen in the evident extravagant lives of those who claim to be spokesmen for Christ. And the millions who support them speak of the unwavering commitment to Biblical illiteracy. These are examples of those that are the polar opposite of what the Bible Teaches.

These are examples of people NOT to follow when it comes to sacrifice

Silver and Gold Have I Quite a Large Sum

Reading *Forbes'* list, I wasn't surprised to see that [Paul Crouch](#), head of the *Trinity Broadcasting Network*, was near the top, with an annual salary of \$409,306. His wife, [Jan](#), was paid \$361,000. Making almost \$3,000 per work day, they bring new meaning to the phrase "daily bread." Public records also indicate that they live in a five-million dollar, 9,500 square-foot house in Newport Beach that has nine bathrooms, an elevator, a six-car garage, tennis court and pool with fountain. But there is more. A TBN-owned, 80-acre estate in Dallas is worth \$10 million. And there are 30 ministry-owned houses in California and scattered across the country at the Crouch's disposal. They can easily travel to those homes using the ministry's \$7 million Canadair jet.

orbes' list doesn't include such well-known prosperity preachers as [Kenneth Copeland](#), [Benny Hinn](#), [Joyce Meyer](#), and [Creflo Dollar](#), whose salaries are essentially hidden from public view because their organizations obtained I.R.S. designations as

churches (which is certainly questionable for all of them but Creflo Dollar). That means they don't have to reveal publicly their financial data each year as do all other non-profit organizations. But their lavish lifestyles are well documented. Some of them even boast of their extravagant lifestyles in order to prove how well their theology works.

But here is some info I found

The richest televangelists in question

1. Benny Hinn—Benny Hinn is known around the world for his large healing crusades. His television show airs in more than 200 countries, and during his time as an evangelist, Hinn claims to have seen people get healed from cancer and crippling diseases, and **he even says he has seen a dead man resurrected**.

While building his following, Hinn has earned quite a bit of money along the way. His ministry collects more than \$200 million a year, and he's admitted to his salary being over half a million. Hinn owns a private jet, lives in a \$10 million house near the Pacific Ocean, stays in hotel rooms that cost thousands each night, and owns luxury vehicles. His lavish lifestyle was first **exposed by Dateline NBC**, and it's now under investigation by the Senate.

2. Joyce Meyer—Since 1999, Joyce Meyer's ministry has spent at least \$4 million on 5 homes for Meyer and her children. Meyer's house is a 10,000 square foot home with an 8-car garage, a large fountain, a gazebo, a private putting green, a pool, and pool house with a new \$10,000 bathroom. Her salary was reported at \$900,000 back in 2003, and she also enjoys use of a private jet and luxury cars. Needless to say, Meyer has been questioned for years, and she is once again under investigation by the government for possibly violating nonprofit laws.

3. Kenneth Copeland—Despite being under investigation, Kenneth Copeland refused to submit financial information about his ministry, saying "You can go get a subpoena, and I won't give it to you. It's not yours, it's God's and you're not going to get it and that's something I'll go to prison over. So, just get over it." Copeland lives in a mansion that some have said is "the size of a hotel." He also has acquired a \$20 million Cessna Citation private jet for flying around the country to spread the word. And of course, he owns an airport for landing said airplane.

4. Creflo Dollar—Creflo Dollar was another **televangelist who ignored the Senate's request for probes** into financial records. Dollar claimed he was concerned about the privacy of his donors, and he said that if the IRS requested it, he would

send it over. However, since it was Congress asking for the information, he wouldn't do so without a subpoena.

His church made \$69 million back in 2006, and the church also provided him with a Rolls Royce. In Dollar's words "Just because it (my life) is excessive doesn't necessarily mean it's wrong."

5. Eddie Long—**According to Eddie Long**, Jesus wasn't broke, and leaders of churches shouldn't be either. Long has earned millions in salary from his ministry, owns a million dollar home on a 20-acre lot, has use of a \$350,000 Bentley, and pulls in a host of other benefits too.

Long was also in the group of televangelists who refused to give the Senate the information requested of the ministry. Senatore Grassley, the leader of this investigation, said "When I hear about leaders of charities being provided a \$300,000 Bentley to drive around in, my fear is that it's the taxpayers who subsidize this charity who are really being taken for a ride."

6. Randy and Paula White—The White's ministry brings in millions each year, and they own million dollar homes across the country (including in Trump Tower). The couple has been under **constant scrutiny for mismanagement of church funds**, and they recently got divorced, further complicating matters for the ministry. At last check, they also failed to provide the Senate with all requested records.

Cited from: [6 Outrageously Wealthy Preachers Under Federal Investigation - NakedLaw by Avvo.com](http://nakedlaw.avvo.com/money/6-outrageously-wealthy-preachers-under-federal-investigation.html#ixzz2tRXGL5y7) <http://nakedlaw.avvo.com/money/6-outrageously-wealthy-preachers-under-federal-investigation.html#ixzz2tRXGL5y7>

Joyce Meyer, for example, lives like a queen. The *St. Louis Dispatch* reported, "Minutes of ministry board meetings show that for 2002 and 2003, the board approved compensation packages of up to \$900,000 for Joyce Meyer and up to \$450,000 for her husband."

Her ministry's financial report that is posted on her website informs readers that besides her salary, her board also grants her use of the "ministry-provided parsonage" (www.joycemeyer.org/projects/financial/FA_pg42.html). It fails, however, to mention that the "ministry parsonage" is 10,000 square feet, has an 8-car garage, and is worth two million dollars ([for a photo, click here](#)). And this is not a two-million dollar home in Southern California, but in Fenton, Missouri. Meyer also personally owns a \$500,000 vacation home on Lake of the Ozarks with a \$105,000 boat parked at her dock.

Another common justification for laying up immense earthly treasures by spiritual leaders is that their luxuries were gifts from generous donors. [Creflo Dollar](#), for example, says that the two Rolls Royces he drives were gifts, so he can hardly be accused of greed for accepting gifts (To see the *New York Times*' article, [click here](#)).

Beyond all of this, does Christ's prohibition against laying up earthly treasures have *any* application? Where are the modern Christian leaders like John Wesley of old, who could have become extremely wealthy from the sale of his books, but who lived very simply and gave the large majority of the profits from his book sales to charity? He did so out of obedience to Christ and died owning very little.

Paul's Example

Commitment to the Gospel to the Point of Death

Acts 20:17-27, 32-38

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; ²⁰ how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴ But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

²⁵ “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

³² “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. ³⁵ I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the

words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' ”

³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, ³⁸ sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Phil 1:12-18

¹² But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: ¹⁶ The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; ¹⁷ but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁸ What then? Only *that* in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

Commitment to Service to the point of Death

Phil 1:20-26

so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ²² But if I live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better. ²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you. ²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

Commitment to Christ to the point of Death

Phil 3:7-11

⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

2 Cor 11:23-28

in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—²⁸ besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

2 Cor 12:7

⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake.

So with that said we are given in this passage 3 Men that are really great examples of Servants to model you life after. Men that where fully and unreservedly committed to Christ.

Paul

Timothy

Epaphroditus

For Today we will consider only Paul

We have already heard some passages that expressed his commitment to the point of death. So it should come as no surprise to see Paul making statements like this to the Philippian Christians

I. Paul's Sacrifice

7 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith,

But or Yes

alla: otherwise, on the other hand, but

Original Word: ἀλλά

Part of Speech: Conjunction

Transliteration: alla

Phonetic Spelling: (al-lah')

Short Definition: but, except

Definition: but, except, however.

HELPS Word-studies

235 *allá* (typically a strong adversative conjunction) – *but (but instead), nevertheless, on the contrary.* **235** (*allá*), the neuter plural of **243** /*állos* ("other"), literally means "otherwise" or "on the other hand" (Abbott-Smith).

If = 1st Class Conditional sentence assumes the reality to be true

ei: forasmuch as, if, that

Original Word: εἰ

Part of Speech: Conditional Particle Or Conjunction

Transliteration: ei

Phonetic Spelling: (i)

Short Definition: if

Definition: if.

HELPS Word-studies

1487 *ei* (a conditional conjunction) – *if*. **1487** /*ei* (followed by any verb) expresses "a condition, *thought* of as *real*, or to denote *assumptions*" (i.e. *viewed as factual*. for the sake of argument) (*BAGD*). Accordingly, **1487** (*ei*) should *not* be translated "*since*," but rather always "*if*" – since the assumption may only be *portrayed* as valid (true, factual).

Poured out

spendó: to pour out (as a drink offering), to make a libation

Original Word: σπένδω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: spendó

Phonetic Spelling: (spen'-do)

Short Definition: I pour out as a libation

Definition: I pour out as a libation.

HELPS Word-studies

4689 *spéndō* – properly, to make a libation (drink-offering). A libation (a *liquid* offering) is *poured out* to symbolize *total surrender* (even unto death).

4689 (*spéndō*) means "to pour out as a drink-offering, make a libation; figuratively, 'I am poured out or offered as a libation' (in the shedding of my life-blood), Phil 2:17" (*Abbott-Smith*); that is, the " 'outpouring' of one's life blood in service and suffering" (Souter).

Poured out as a drink offering (4689) (**spendo [word study]**) means to pour out an offering as an act of worship or ritual observance or as a libation. Paul is alluding to his possible martyrdom (which by tradition did become a reality).

The picture of **poured out** is from OT sacrificial system. As commanded in the book of Numbers, the people of Israel, as well as Gentiles who lived among them, were first to give a burnt offering of one of the prescribed animals, then a grain offering, and finally a drink offering (Nu 15:1-10). Pouring out as a drink offering refers to the topping off of an ancient animal sacrifice. The offerers poured wine either in front of or on top of the burning animal and the wine would be vaporized. That steam symbolized the rising of the offering to the deity for whom the sacrifice was made (cf. Ex 29:38, 39, 40, 41; 2Ki 16:13 ;Jer 7:18 ; Ho 9:4).

Wuest adds...

The words "offered up" (Php 2:17KJV) are the translation of a Greek word used in the pagan Greek religions, of the drink-offering poured out upon the sacrifice itself, the latter being the major part of the offering to the gods, and the former, the minor part. Paul uses this drink-offering or libation to speak of the violent death he will some day die as a martyr. It will be his blood poured out. Indeed, during his second Roman imprisonment, knowing that he would shortly be sent to the executioner's block for decapitation, he writes to Timothy, using the same word, "For I am now ready to be offered," or as one could translate, "For my life's blood is already being poured out" (2Ti 4:6-note). He uses the main sacrifice as an illustration of the Philippian saint's Christian life and service. The Greek word for "sacrifice" used (Wuest, K. S. *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: Eerdmans or Logos*)

Sacrifice

thusia: a sacrifice

Original Word: θυσία, ας, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: thusia

Phonetic Spelling: (thoo-see'-ah)

Short Definition: a sacrifice

Definition: abstr. and concr: sacrifice; a sacrifice, offering.

HELPS Word-studies

2378 *thysía* – properly, an *offering (sacrifice)*; an official sacrifice *prescribed by God*; hence an offering *the Lord accepts* because *offered on His terms*.

2378 /*thysía* ("sacrifice") refers to various forms of OT blood sacrifices ("types") – all awaiting their *fulfillment* in their *antitype*, Jesus Christ (Heb 10:5-12).

I Thess 2:8

⁸ So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*

Service

leitourgia: a service, a ministry

Original Word: ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ, ας, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: leitourgia

Phonetic Spelling: (li-toorg-ee'-ah)

Short Definition: a charitable gift, public service

Definition: a charitable gift, public service in the widest sense; service as of priest or Levite ritual.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: **3009** *leitourgía* (a feminine noun derived from **3011** /*leitourgós*, "an official servant," "sacred ministering") – properly, official (technical) service offered by a duly authorized minister; used of believers ministering to the Lord as His duly-commissioned priests – a sacred ministering that always serves (impacts) those who witness it.

3009 /*leitourgía* ("sacred ministry to the Lord") is the root of the English term "*liturgy*" and used metaphorically in the NT of *the liturgy of life*, i.e. when the believer lives *in faith* ("the Lord's inwrought *persuasions*," **4102** / *pístis*).

[Originally, **3009** (*leitourgía*) was service done by someone in an honorary religious or civic office, leaving a significant impact on the *community*. **3009** /*leitourgía* ("sacred ministry, service") later focuses on *priestly, Levitical* ministrations.]

Williams comments

The apostle compares the self-sacrifice and energy of the Philippians with his own, magnifying theirs and minimizing his. They were both laying down their lives for the sake of the gospel, but their action he regards as the great sacrifice, and his as only the drink offering poured out upon it. Under this beautiful figure of speech, he speaks of his possible approaching death as a martyr. (George Williams, The Student's Commentary on the Holy Scriptures, p. 931)

Wuest adds

What humility for the great apostle to rejoice at the fact that some day he would be the lesser part of the sacrifice poured out upon the major part, the Philippian's Christian testimony and service to God. (Ibid)

II. Paul's Satisfaction

I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

I am glad

chairó: to rejoice, be glad

Original Word: χαίρω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: chairó

Phonetic Spelling: (khah'-ee-ro)

Short Definition: I rejoice, am glad

Definition: I rejoice, am glad; also a salutation: Hail.

HELPS Word-studies

5463 *xaírō* (from the root *xar-*, "*favorably* disposed, *leaning towards*" and cognate with **5485** /*xáris*, "grace") – properly, to delight in God's *grace* ("rejoice") – literally, to experience *God's grace (favor)*, be conscious (glad) for His *grace*.

5463 /*xaírō* ("glad for *grace*") has a direct "etymological connection with *xaris* (grace)" (*DNTT*, 2, 356). S. Zodhiates (*Dict*, 1467) likewise comments that **5479** /*xará* ("joy") and **5485** /*xáris* ("grace") are cognate with **5463** / *xaírō* ("to rejoice"), i.e. all share the same *root* and therefore *the same core (fundamental) meaning*.

and rejoice with you all

sugchairó: to rejoice with

Original Word: συγχαίρω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: sugchairó

Phonetic Spelling: (soong-khah'-ee-ro)

Short Definition: I rejoice with

Definition: I rejoice with, congratulate.

HELPS Word-studies

4796 *sygxaírō* (from **4862** /*sýn*, "*identify with*" and **5463** /*xaírō*, "*rejoicing in God's grace*") – properly, sharing God's *grace with another person, so that both rejoice together (mutually participate in God's favor, grace)*.

2 Cor 7:4

4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation

Col 1:24

24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

I Thess 4:7

7 therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. 8 For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

9 For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God,

For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

“In the prosecution of this arduous work, the apostle was sometimes exposed to incredible dangers and hardships. But none of these things moved him, neither did he count his life dear to himself, that he might finish his course with joy. Yes, says he ([Phil. 2:17](#)), and if I am offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy and rejoice with you all.”