



Philippians

Living in the Joy of Knowing Christ!

The Joy of Knowing Christ's Mind!

Philippians 2:5-11

Message #7 of 16 – S994

Sermon given on April 24, 2022



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Joy of Knowing Christ's Mind!

Philippians 2:5-11

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Philippians 2**
- Today, we continue our series through the book of **Philippians – Living in the Joy of Knowing Christ!**
- The Apostle Paul had one overriding passion in his life **1 Corinthians 2:2**

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

- And to the Galatians he said **Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

- And earlier in this letter **Philippians 1:21**

For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

- Paul's passion was Christ and the gospel, or good news that He brought to the world
- The good news is that by turning from sin and putting our faith in Christ and His sacrifice to pay for our sins we can be forgiven and experience the fullness of God's grace and love
- Paul then exhorted the Philippians about how they should respond to this good news **Philippians 1:27a**

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ...

- That is a call to examine your life to determine if you are living in a manner that is worthy of the price of your salvation
- He then called them to have an attitude of unity and selflessness
- Our attitudes, while they are influenced by our emotions are primarily a function of our minds – what we think
- As Christians, our goal in this life is to be more like Christ every day
- Part of the process is changing the way we think **Romans 12:2**

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- Paul is going to tell us a little about what our mind should be like
- Let's pray and then look at a few verses

- Pray

Teaching

- **The Joy of Knowing Christ's Mind!**
- The verses we are looking at this morning are theologically rich
- I would encourage you to take some time and dig in deeper
- My study notes for this text include a lot I wasn't able to share this morning
- They will be attached to the edited message I upload to the website tomorrow morning
- **Philippians 2:5**
- 'mind' can also be rendered as attitude
- Paul is telling them and us that our goal is to have the same attitude as Christ
- The phrase 'in you' has the sense of 'in all of you collectively'
- It could be read as 'have this mind among yourselves'
- Paul then tells us a little about who Jesus is
- **Philippians 2:6**
- 'being in the form of God'
- 'form' = nature, character, visual form, outward appearance
- Jesus is in all ways God and like God the Father – and He has always been God the Son **Hebrews 1:3b**
...who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person...
- Jesus told Philip, 'if you have seen Me, you have seen the Father'
- The Jews recognized that Jesus claimed to be equal with God **John 5:18**

But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." 18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

- and it led them to accuse Him of blasphemy (John 10:33).
- The exhortation is to have the same mind/attitude as Christ
- That is a high mountain to climb **R. Kent Hughes**
"This is among the persistent challenges in reading about Christ-to allow our minds to dwell upon the incomprehensible realities of His person so that our understanding is progressively elevated and our hearts are enlarged."

- Jesus was with God the Father from eternity past as God the Son – equal in all ways to God the Father
- But then He did something that ought to fill our minds with wonder and our hearts with adoration
- **Philippians 2:7**
- Jesus, God the Son from eternity past, became like one of the beings He created
- It is beyond human comprehension the heights of majesty that Jesus stepped down from when He took on the likeness of men.
- But we need to strive to comprehend – will fill your heart with love

Charles Spurgeon

“Could condescension go farther than for the Infinite to be joined to the infant, and the Omnipotent to the feebleness of a newborn babe?”

- The phrase ‘made Himself of no reputation’ can also be translated ‘He emptied Himself’
- Some interpret that to mean that Jesus emptied Himself of His deity while was in the ‘form of a bondservant’ – false doctrine
- The mystery of Christ’s incarnation is that He was fully God and fully man – He didn’t stop being God when He took on human flesh **R.**

Kent Hughes

“Christ did not exchange the form of God for the form of a slave. Rather He manifested the form of God in the form of a slave.”

- Jesus lived on the earth with self-imposed limitations, but He never stopped being God.
- Even as He grew in Mary’s womb, He was God.
- **Philippians 2:8**
- ‘He humbled Himself’ – because Jesus was and is God no power in the universe could humble Him
- The chief priests who falsely accused Him – Herod – Pilate – even the soldiers who beat, mocked, and crucified Jesus could not humble Him
- He had to humble Himself **John 10:17-18**

Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.

- Not only did Christ humble Himself – He was obedient

- True humility before God must include complete obedience to Him **1 Samuel 15:22**

So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.”

- ‘the death of the cross’ – obedience is not a one and done thing – it must be a lifestyle
- True obedience rejects the fear of possible consequences for obedience even if the consequence is death
- Even the worst kind of death – death on the cross was terrible
- It was degrading and humiliating
- Jesus humbled Himself and was obedient to God even though He knew the degradation He would experience
- And He did it willingly – no one could have compelled Jesus to die on the cross, except for obedience to His Father – and for our salvation
- His humiliation – leave heaven and become one of His creation – live the life of a bondservant - rejection by the spiritual elites – betrayed by one of His own – falsely accused – wrongly condemned – beaten – spit upon – mocked, scourged – and crucified.
- But once the work of His humiliation was completed
- **Philippians 2:9-11**
- ‘has highly exalted’ – this is the only occurrence in New Testament = super-exalted
- His exaltation – buried in a rich man’s tomb – resurrected – ascended exalted back to God’s right hand.
- Even the angels rejoice at His exaltation **Revelation 5:12**

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!

- From the cross Jesus said, “It is finished!”
- In addition to the work of redemption of fallen mankind, Jesus’ work of humility was done
- Man betrayed, falsely accused, beat, mocked, and crucified Him – But God exalted Him
- The Bible records many names for Jesus – Christ, Immanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, the Almighty, Ancient of Days, the Door, the Chief Shepherd, the Good Shepherd, the Great

Shepherd, the Word, the Light, the Lamb, the Bread of Life, the Rock, the Bridegroom, and the Alpha and Omega.

- What name does God give Jesus here? Yahweh?
- ‘every knee should bow’ - Every knee will bow.
- The question is when. You will either bow in worship of Savior Jesus or you will bow before Holy Judge Jesus.
- You should bow in worship of Savior Jesus now, because if you have to be made to bow before Judge Jesus it will be too late to choose.
- ‘...in heaven...on earth...under the earth...’ – Every intelligent being, whether they be angels or saints in heaven, or people living on the earth, or Satan, his demons, and those unsaved in hell – all will bow the knee to Christ.
- ‘Jesus Christ is Lord’ - Everyone, believers and unbelievers will do this. Even Satan and the demons will do this.
- Again, it is better to do that today in faith, trusting Jesus as your Savior, than to face Him in judgment and be forced to say it
- Jesus Christ is Lord
- Paul began this text by saying, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...”
- In this text we saw three aspects of the mind/attitude of Christ
- First – **Humility**
- Christ humbled Himself – how much? – from Eternal Creator God to the likeness of His creation as a bondservant
- If we are going to have the mind of Christ, how much should we be willing to be humbled – all the way down to the lowest level possible
- Jesus spoke about that after two of His disciples asked for exalted places in the kingdom of God **Matthew 20:25-28**
But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
- True humility is a willingness to be nothing in order to serve others
- Second – **Obedience**
- Humility is meaningless if we are not doing what God wants us to do

- Jesus, Creator God the Son – equal with God in all ways was obedient – up to and including a disgraceful death on the cross **John 6:38**

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

- To have the mind of Christ, we must seek to know God’s will – His Word – His Spirit – His people
- Third and final – **Hopeful**
- The result of Jesus’ humility and obedience was exaltation by God the Father - Jesus expected to be exalted **John 17:4-5**

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

- If we are humble and obedient, can we expect to be exalted? **1 Peter 5:6-7**

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- ‘in due time’ – maybe in this life – absolutely in the next
- Growing up I believed I had to be somebody, and I had no one to answer to but myself
- Unfortunately, everything I was striving for always seemed to be just out of reach – close enough to tempt me but too far to reach
- I eventually discovered the futility of that way of living after coming to faith in Christ
- Jesus left heaven and humbled Himself as one of us – was obedient to death – the cross – now exalted **Hebrews 12:1b-2**

...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- When I think about what Jesus did – what He did for me – it makes me want to express my love for Him more
- Paul says we do that by allowing God the Holy Spirit to reshape our mind/attitudes to be like Christ’s
- Be more humble – be more obedient – be more hopeful
- And you can be sure God is going to bless you with His joy
- **Pray**