

Joy: Humility and Exaltation

Philippians 2:1-11

Introduction

I The Benefits of Christ

- A. The benefits of knowing Christ
 - 1. **Encouragement** from being united with Christ - 2Th2:16-17
 - 2. Comfort from his love - 2 Cor 1:3-5
 - 3. **Fellowship** with the Spirit - Eph 1:13-14; 2 Cor 13:14
 - 4. Tenderness and compassion - Phil 1:8; Eph 2:4-7
- B. The responsibilities of knowing Christ
 - 1. Be like- **minded** - 1 Cor 1:10; 6:17
 - 2. Have the same love - Jn 13:34-35; 1 Jn 4:8
 - 3. Be one in spirit and **purpose** - Eph 4:1-3; Jer 32:39
 - 4. Do nothing out of
 - a. Selfish **ambition** - Gal 5:19-21
 - b. Vain **conceit** - James 3:13-16; Rom 12:3
 - 5. Consider others **better** than yourselves - Rom 12:10
 - 6. Look not only to your own interests - Phil 2:21
 - a. But also to the interests of others - 1 Cor 10:24
 - 7. Our **attitude** should be the same as Jesus - Eph 5:1-2

II The Example of Christ

- A. Being in very nature God - Jn 1:1, 14
 - 1. He did not **grasp** for equality with God - 1 Cor 6:19-20
 - 2. He made himself nothing
 - a. He laid aside **position** - Jn 1:10-14
 - b. He laid aside **possessions** - 2 Cor 8:9
 - c. He laid aside **privilege** - Mk 10:45
 - 3. He took on the very nature of a **servant** - Is 42:1; 2 Cor 4:5
 - 4. He was made in human likeness - Jn 1:14
- B. Being found in appearance as a man
 - 1. He **humbled** himself - Isa 53:2-3; 1 Pt 5:5-6
 - 2. He became **obedient** to death
 - a. Even death on a cross! - Heb 5:8-9; 12:2-3

III The Reward of Christ

- A. God **exalted** him to the highest place - Heb 2:9; Eph 1:19-22

- B. God gave him the name that is above every name
 - 1. That at the name of Jesus every knee will **bow** - Is 45:23
 - a. In **heaven**: Spirits (good/bad) in the heavenly realm
 - b. On earth: Living human beings
 - c. Under the **earth**: Demons and Christ-rejecters
 - 2. That every tongue **confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord
 - a. To the glory of God the Father - Act 2:36; Jn 17:1-5

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Which benefits from know Christ are you most thankful for?
- 2. Reading between the lines, what was wrong with the church in Philippi and what is Paul getting at in these verses? [Phil 4:2]
- 3. Reread Phil 2:1-11 and write down your discoveries:
 - a. What are the 4 motives for unity? (vs. 1)
 - b. What are the 3 attitudes for unity? (vs. 2)
 - c. What are the 4 characteristics for unity? (vs. 3-5)
- 4. How would things change if your life was characterized by verses 2-8? In your family? Your church? Your work place? What steps can you take this week to grow in these areas?
- 5. Paul says that “your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus ...” What Christ-like attitudes do you personally find most challenging in verses 5-8? What was the outcome of this lifestyle for Christ? What will it be for you?
- 6. There are three primary definitions for the word, “Lord”:
 - a. An official title -- like king
 - b. An honorary designation for a great teacher and leader
 - c. An acknowledgment that Jesus is God and that you have surrendered total authority of your life over to Him.Which definition most closely describes you?
- 7. Take a few moments to thank the Holy Spirit for speaking to you through this passage and then ask Him to cultivate in your heart and life the attitudes and characteristics of Christ.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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