

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JAN 30TH-31ST, 2021 // BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

- Adversity can be the catalyst to great things happening.
- Are we adopting the attitude of Jesus?

HUMILITY(PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4)

LIVING IN CHRIST RESULTS IN LOVING OTHERS

- Paul talks about our relationship with Jesus in chapter 1 and moves on to how we relate to others in chapter 2.
- **A relationship with God begins with humility, and that is also the key to human relationships.** Our attitudes towards other people are a good indicator of the depth of our relationship with God.

THE TWO CANNOT BE DIVORCED

- Paul says that if we claim "encouragement," "love," "fellowship," and "mercy" with God, we are only complete in our faith if we show that kind of attitude towards others.
- 1 Jn. 4:20 says, a "**person who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.**"

WE MUST PUT AWAY "SELFISH AMBITION"

- In order to follow Jesus and biblically love others, we must not pursue "selfish ambition or conceit, but in **humility think of others as more important than yourselves.**"
- **Humility is not putting ourselves down, but lifting others up.** This is the antithesis of culture as we know it in the United States!

THIS IS A SUPERNATURAL WORK OF THE SPIRIT

- Humility is one of the fundamental elements of the Christian faith, and **in our humility we should be putting the needs of others above ours. This is only possible by the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- **Our natural response is self-exaltation and preservation, but this is not the example or heart of Christ.**

THE EXAMPLE (PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11)

"ADOPT THE SAME ATTITUDE..."

- V5-11 may be some of the most blatant examples of the character and nature of Christ that we are called to emulate. These traits are to be desired by the Christian.
- **It is only by a desire to want to be like Jesus and the infilling of His Spirit that we can live out this kind of humble and selfless life.**

"INSTEAD HE EMPTIED HIMSELF..."

- Jesus had every right to be arrogant, but instead He "emptied Himself" and took on the role of "servant." Also, an all-powerful Creator became like His creation in the form of a man.
- Jesus said He "didn't come to be served, but to serve" (Mt. 20:28). **We as believers must be willing to lay down our rights and privileges for His Kingdom to advance.**

"...OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH"

- **Because of our pride we often refuse to be humiliated or put down,** but Jesus was obedient to God's mission even to the point of being killed in the most humiliating and painful way.
- **It really boils down to who we are most loyal to, ourselves or God. If our ultimate allegiance lies with God, it's easier to lay our lives/pride down.**

WHO ARE WE TRYING TO GET TO EXALT US?

- Yes, we should care about our reputation in the community, but **if we put the approval of man above the approval of God, we will not be exalted by Him.**
- We must remember that Jesus is the One that every knee will bow down to in the end. This means **we either find humility now, or God finds it for us in the end.**

LIKE STARS (PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18)

"WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION"

- This passage can easily be taken out of context. We are "saved by grace through faith" (Ep.2:8-9) and not by any work we do. BUT, **after we are saved we are to work out the principles of salvation in our lives.**
- **We are called to demonstrate our salvation** by how we live, our prayer lives, being a servant, loving others, etc.

AGAIN, IT IS GOD WORKING THROUGH US

- **All we are really asked to do is be willing and obedient.** It is God that does great works through people that want to live out the mission of Christ.
- **If we will consistently pray, meditate, read and follow the Word, and be held accountable by the local church God will do amazing things with us!**

WE ARE CALLED TO BE DIFFERENT

- Paul calls us to do the work of Jesus "without grumbling and arguing" in a culture that is "crooked and perverted." If we will commit to following Jesus' example and "Word of life," **we will "shine like stars in the world."**
- **The life of a Christian should be noticeably different from a society that doesn't know God.**

IT IS BIGGER THAN THE INDIVIDUAL

- Paul wanted the Christians in Philippi to hold steady because he felt like it gave his life more meaning.
- The point to take from this is that it isn't about the lifting up of the individual, but of the message of Jesus. **We must think of our faith as a collective mission to connect more people to Jesus.**

"EVEN IF I AM Poured OUT"

- If anyone had the right to complain, it was Paul. But, because he knew his life was honoring God and that others were coming to know Jesus, being a "drink offering" and giving his life was well worth it.
- **Can we say that our lifestyles honor God and that we are bringing others into a saving faith in Jesus?**

PROVEN CHARACTER (PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30)

PAUL RETURNS TO MORE PERSONAL MATTERS

- Timothy stood out from other young pastors Paul had been discipling because of his genuine "care about your [the Philippians] interests."
- Timothy stood out from other young people because he was **humble and took the time to be mentored, he was selfless, and cared about other people's needs.**

EPAPHRODITUS WAS A STRONG FOLLOWER TOO

- Epa was supposed to go and care for Paul in Rome but got deathly ill during his travels and had to be sent back to Philippi. Epa thought he had failed his church and Paul, but Paul wanted to make sure everyone knew he hadn't failed.
- Paul wanted to assure the Philippians that Epa had risked it all for God's work.

BELONGING TO APHRODITE

- Epaphroditus name means *to belong to Aphrodite*, the goddess of pleasure. Isn't it interesting that someone brought up in a culture centered around selfish pursuits of pleasure risks his life in order to take care of others in the name of Christ?
- **In our culture of extreme me-ism, are we people looking to serve others?**

TO RELAY LOVE TO OTHERS

- The Christian has received **mercy, grace, love,** and **relationship** from Jesus, and we are called to give these same gifts to the people around us.
- In order to share the love of Christ **we must willingly humble ourselves and "consider others more important than ourselves."**

THE ATTITUDE OF JESUS

- Paul writes that Jesus is **humble, a servant, and obedient to the point of humiliation and death.** Jesus is our example of how to live.
- Adopting the attitude of Jesus takes dying to self. **We may have to sacrifice rights or be humiliated, but if we choose to honor God above all things, we will be exalted by Him.**

THE COURAGE TO BE COUNTER-CULTURAL

- To be "stars" in this dark world we must not follow the pattern of this world, but **live transformed lives that emulate Jesus.**
- Consistent faith, humility, servanthood, selflessness, and putting others first is not the cultural norm. **Are we willing to go against the grain in order to honor God and touch people's lives?**

TAKING AN INVENTORY

- Our culture is chaotic and brutal. Have you experienced the peace and love of God?
- Are we consciously putting others above ourselves? Do we strive to live selflessly?
- Do we have the courage to live the teachings of Christ and His Word in the face of a society hostile towards the things of God?
- **Have we adopted the attitude of Jesus?**