

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 21

Chapter 2, verses 5-11: The Sacrificial Love of the Lord Jesus Christ

12 September 2022

Philippians was written to teach believers how to live in fellowship and communion with one another.

- As servants of Jesus Christ (1:1)
- In lowliness of mind, esteeming other better than ourselves (2:3).
- Looking out for the things of others (2:4).
- Looking at the example of Jesus Christ as He humbled Himself and died on the cross in obedience to the Father solely for our benefit. **“Let this mind be in you.”** (2:5).
 - Putting away pride and self-love to serve others and put them first.

THE GREAT HUMILITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

- **“Made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man”** (2:7-8).
- **Psalm 8:1-4**, when we consider the Great God who created the marvelous universe, we wonder why such a Great God, why such a High and Lofty God would be mindful of insignificant man.
- **Psalm 113:1-4**, when we look at God’s creation, we can’t help but praise Him and acknowledge His high position and His glory above the heavens.
 - **Psalm 113:5-6**, God must humble Himself to even look upon His creation, which is so much lower than He is.
 - **Jesus Christ is brighter than the noonday sun** (Acts 9:3, 26:13; Rev 1:16, 21:23; Mt 17:2; Isa 24:23).
 - Such a great and glorious God humbled Himself to become a man, die as a man, and take man’s sins upon Himself on the cross.
 - This was completely for the benefit of man. God did not gain anything for Himself.

PUTTING THE LORD’S EXAMPLE INTO PRACTICE

- **“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”** (2:5).
 - Stop looking at your own benefit (or lack thereof) in your service to others. Remember that you are serving for them, not for you.
 - Aim to BE a blessing to others. Don’t expect to GET a blessing from them.
 - If you are serving for your own benefit, the day will come when you will become bitter against the brethren or a family member.
 - If you serve for the benefit of others, you will find joy in that service.
- **John 15:11-13**, Jesus wants us to have His joy and to have full joy. Where does that kind of joy come from?
 - It comes from loving one another the way Christ loved us (vs 12).
 - It comes from laying down your own life (your self-interests, your lusts) and living for others (vs 13).
- **1 John 3:14-16**, our love for the brethren is proven, not by what we say, but by what we do.
 - God laid down HIS life for us, proving that He loved us (vs 16).
 - We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren, proving our love for them.
- Loving others is not a feeling (feelings come and go).
 - Love is being obedient to God, obeying God’s truth for God’s sake and for the sake of others, denying your flesh, and laying down your life for others.
 - That love will result in joy.
 - This is the example of Jesus Christ.