

Home Group Questions

the week of 12/16/2018

Philippians 2:3-11

JESUS – BEST GIFT EVER

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel spoke about Christmas and focused on the greatest gift we have ever received, and the example Jesus set for us when, through His incarnation, He served the world!

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Philippians 2:3-11. The incarnation is at the very heart of the Christmas story, the miracle of God becoming flesh. There are serious implications of the incarnation for our lives today. This passage is a powerful one that challenges us to have a mind like Christ. Jesus willingly saw the needs of others as more important than His own, which ultimately led Him to the cross. What are ways in which we can see the needs of others as more important than our own without burning ourselves out? How do you balance having the mind of Christ and serving others with keeping your schedule and “family life” somewhat sane?

2. Philippians 2:7 says that Christ “emptied himself” or “made himself nothing.” The Kenosis of Christ (Kenosis being the Greek word used in this passage) has been defined as the following:

“Jesus Christ (who before his incarnation was known as the Word) is equal with God. Or in other words, He is not subordinate to anyone, not even God. He was equal and supreme over all things. But verse 6 continues by telling us that he did not consider this supremacy something to cling to. Instead of clinging to this supremacy, verse 7 tells us that Jesus Christ emptied himself of that supremacy, that is, his divine rank and authority. Jesus Christ did not empty himself of divinity in any way.

Rather, He emptied himself of his rank and authority as the Supreme Being and took on the role of a subordinate, a

servant as verse 7 plainly tells us.

Clearly what Jesus Christ gave up was supreme authority in order to live as a subordinate. In verse 8, he continues to be humbled, subordinating himself to God the Father even so far as to obey him and give up his life. Truly the Supreme being of the Word was nullifying his own supreme authority by subordinating himself in this way.”

Discuss the above quote. What seems to be hard to understand about this doctrine? Would this be a doctrine you could explain to others who may ask you how Jesus could be God and yet confined in a human body? How does the kenosis of Christ challenge you and the way you live during Christmas and throughout the year?

3. Defending the Deity of Christ: Read the passages listed below, which deal with the deity of Christ. Discuss how you may have been confronted with doctrines that diminish the deity of Christ, and how these verses may have helped in defending Jesus’ divinity. (Colossians 1:15-20; John 1:1-5; John 8:48-59; John 10:22-33; John 20:24-29.)

4. Read John 17:1-19. This passage is typically referred to as the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus. What are some of the things that Jesus prays for in these verses? How do some of the statements connect with our passage in Philippians? What does this verse tell us about “living out Christ” in our lives? As we copy the character of Christ, what should be our attitude to the world as we seek to live here on this planet? How do we serve not only people in the church but also people in the world and yet not allow ourselves to be taken advantage of, or allow ourselves to be enablers of those who simply have bad habits in their lives? (While still demonstrating the love of Christ that He commanded us to have.)

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray this Christmas that your worship of this awesome baby would be the center of your Christmas celebration!