

Philippians 2:1-11, The Life God Honors – January 23, 2022

Introduction: If the cross of Christ absorbs the wrath of God to the point where if you repent and believe you can be saved, what is the defining Christian behavior?

I. The Gospel declares what God has done for us.

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2:1

Examples: Lydia, slave girl, jailer (Acts 16)

A. The encouragement is that we can all be saved regardless of our background

B. The comfort is that the love of God saves us in the middle of whatever slavery we are in

II. The Gospels demand a response. The grace of Christ changes us.

III. Paul tells us what our response should be.

then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 2:2-4.

A. I can live focused on myself

B. I can live life focused on others

the term “look” come from the Greek word that gives us the English word “scope.”

IV. Paul tells us why this should be our response

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 2:5

The foundation for living selfless lives is the humility we see in the life and death of Jesus Christ

A. Jesus is identified as being involved in creation.
Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 2:6

“In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) and the Word (Jesus) was with God and the Word (Jesus) was God. He was with God in the beginning...the world was made through Him.” John 1:1-10

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?” Psalm 8:3-4

B. Jesus is sustaining creation
“For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through

him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” Colossians 1:15-17

C. Jesus laid down all his divine rights and privileges and died for those he created.

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! 2:6-8

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? Matthew 26:53

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34

V. A life of humility and servanthood is the life God blesses.

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 2:9-11

A. God is honored by the humble. 2:11

B. God honors the humble

Jesus did not grasp at equality with God,
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place.

Jesus made himself nothing
Therefore God gave him the name above all names.

Jesus took the nature of a servant, he knelt at his disciples feet and washed them
Therefore every knee shall bow before him.

Jesus became obedient to death on the cross
Therefore every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

“...clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.” 1 Peter 5:5-6