

The Book of Philippians

Lesson 6

Study Notes

The Mind of Christ

Foothills Baptist Bible College

Instructor: Dr. Douglas Woody

Text: Philippians 1:5-11.

Key Verse: Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Introduction: During the fall of 1775, a man who appeared to be a typical American farmer attempted to book a room in Baltimore's most fashionable hotel. Concerned about the hotel's reputation, the manager refused to rent the room. The man left and took a room in another hotel. Later, the manager learned he had refused a room to Thomas Jefferson, the vice president of the United States. Immediately he sent an invitation to Jefferson, asking him to return to his hotel as his guest. Jefferson's response was simple and to the point: "I value your good intentions highly, but if you have no place for an American farmer, you have no right giving hospitality to the Vice president of the United States.

In our text Paul is instructing the Philippian believers in the _____. He uses Jesus Christ as the perfect example of the right mentality the Christian needs in order to effectively live in unity and with the fullness of joy. The need is to _____ of Christ.

The Example We See in Jesus Christ:

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

I. The Mind of Christ Lacked Selfish Ambition or Conceit.

A. The preexistence of Christ.

Jesus was "in the form of God" He existed as essentially one with God. From all eternity the Son was co-existent, _____, and _____ with the Father. The word "form" is the Greek word "*morphe*" (mor-fay) to denote the exact image, the image of _____ and essence. It has no reference to the shape of a _____, but refers to the expression of being. Jesus shared similar glory with His Father.

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

While _____ has desired to share that glory, it has never been given to anyone except Christ.

Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

B. Christ did not consider such equality "robbery."

Literally, "a thing to be grasped"; that is, something to be laid hold of. Christ waived His rights to: (1) express His _____; (2) display His divine attributes; and (3) demonstrate His _____ with God. He relinquished His rights for the redemption of mankind.

C. Christ was equal with God.

While He laid aside His divine glory; he did not lay aside His divine _____. He laid aside the expression of deity; but He could not lay aside His possession of deity. He laid aside His rights as a Son and took His place as a _____.

II. The Mind of Christ Looked Out for the Interest of Others.

Philippians 2:7-8 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

While the story of the cross is recorded in the Gospels and explained in the Epistles, it is only in this passage that the _____ is seen through the eyes of Christ Himself. We are given this glimpse of His perspective so that we might see the price that must be paid for unity nothing less than death. It is a willingness to turn totally away from our own prerogatives in order that we might focus on the _____. No one has ever done that like Jesus Christ did. While the beauty of the incarnation of our Savior is eloquently expressed in this paragraph, we must remember that this was not given as a doctrinal treatise. Rather, it is an illustration of the kind of humility and servanthood necessary to preserve unity in the body of Christ.

A. In Christ's Interest of Others He Relinquished His Place.

He left all the splendor of Heaven to come and take upon Himself the nature of man.

B. In Christ's Interest of Others He Refused His Prerogatives.

"Made himself of no reputation" means that He emptied Himself; He divested Himself of the glory He had with the Father. He did not empty Himself of something; but rather He emptied Himself from something; the _____. This can be represented like pouring water from a pitcher into a glass; the form is different, but the substance remains the same.

C. In Christ's Interest of Others He Renounced His Privileges.

The best and most accurate way to define the 'self-emptying' of Jesus is that in His incarnation, Christ voluntarily surrendered the independent exercise of His divine attributes. He never ceased to possess them all, but He voluntarily put Himself under the _____ of God the Father and under the _____ of the Holy Spirit in their exercise. There is no record of Jesus having used these divine attributes in His first thirty years of human existence, but when the Spirit came upon Him at His baptism, He began to demonstrate these powers.

D. In Christ's Interest of Others He Restricted His Presence.

When we read of Christ 'taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men,' we understand that Jesus gave up His unbounded universal freedom to be _____ in a human body that in turn was confined to a country no bigger than Palestine.

E. In Christ's Interest of Others He Realized His Purpose.

It is important that we understand that the purpose of Christ was a _____ and not _____ upon Him.

Jesus willingly accepted the will of God and determined within Himself to do the work.

Philippians 2:7-8 *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Jesus came "in the likeness of men" as such He could experience our _____ and _____.

Hebrews 2:17-18 *Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*

Jesus was so passionate about His purpose that He was willing to change in order to accomplish it. Christ had all the qualities which Adam had before he sinned, but not the sinful nature which came through Adam's fall. The fact that "He humbled himself" is not the same as "He emptied himself" but shows us how the self-emptying manifested itself. It was His _____ that prompted Him to voluntarily do this for us.

"And became obedient unto death" The mark of a _____ is obedience. When slaves were executed, they were crucified. When Christ assumed the role of a servant; his death on the cross was on the same plane as the worst of criminal. Christ was obedient unto death and not to death. He never was death's _____; but was death's _____ and conqueror. Consider this Jesus' death was the only death not inevitable; for Him, death was _____ chosen.

Philippians 2:9 -11.

God has highly exalted Jesus in two ways. One, in the present He has given Him a name that is above every name; and by this name all men can be saved.

Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

Secondly, in the future at His name every creature must bow before Him. Every created and moral being will bow in submission to Christ's lordship. 1. Things in heaven: the world of the angels. 2. Things in earth: the world of saints and sinners. 3. Things under the earth: the world of demons and unsaved.

Conclusion: While all will be made to acknowledge His lordship; this does not mean that ultimately all the lost will be saved. We have only this life to acknowledge Him as our Lord and Savior. The Bible does not teach or promise any future reconciliation after death.

God is glorified when men openly acknowledge Christ as Lord.