

PHILIPPIANS

JESUS OUR JOY

A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of December 20, 2020

Humbled & Exalted

This week, Pastor Joe Brown preached from [Philippians 2:5-11](#)

Jesus is the perfect illustration of humility
The Philippians' character betrays their pride
They-- and we-- need a reorientation
Verses 6-11 are a pre-Pauline creed
Verses 6-11 are a poem (not seen in ESV)

Verse 6 – Who is Jesus? Facts matters. History matters.

Verse 7 – The Incarnation reveals the Grace of God.
He did not stop being God when He became man. “In Jesus Christ we meet the very embodiment of the majestic Sovereignty of God breaking into the world to claim it for himself, the coming of *Immanuel*, God himself to be with us and one of us, and specifically named Jesus, for “he shall save his people from their sins’ (Matthew 1:21).” (Tom Torrance)

Verse 8 – The Crucifixion reveals the Love of God
“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us.” (1 John 3:16)
“In the Christian story God descends to re-ascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity... But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him. One has the picture of a strong man stooping lower and lower to get himself underneath some great complicated burden. He must stoop in order to lift, he must almost disappear under the load before he incredibly straightens his back and marches off with the whole mass swaying on his shoulders.” (C.S. Lewis)

Verse 9 – The Exaltation of Christ reveals the Hope we have in God
“The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience, and sacrifice of Himself, which He, through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, has fully satisfied the justice of His Father; and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father has given unto Him.” (Westminster Confession of Faith, 8.5)

Verses 10-11 – Our Response should be Faith in God
“The Christian message contains more than the fact of the resurrection. It is not enough to know that Jesus is alive; it is not enough to know that a wonderful Person lived in the first century of the Christian era and that Person still lives, somewhere and somehow, today. Jesus lives, and that is well; but what good is it to us? We are like the inhabitants of far-off Syria or Phoenicia in the days of His flesh. There is a wonderful Person who can heal every ill of body and mind. But, alas, we are not with Him, and the way is far. How shall we come into His presence? How shall contact be established between us and Him? For the people of ancient Galilee contact was established by a touch of Jesus' hand or a word from His lips. But for us the problem is not so easy. We cannot find Him by the

lakeshore or in crowded houses; we cannot be lowered into any room where He sits amid scribes and Pharisees. If we employ only our own methods of search, we shall find ourselves on a fruitless pilgrimage. Surely we need guidance, if we are to find our Savior.” (J. Gresham Machen)

For Further Discussion: *Philippians 2:5-11*

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Earlier in Philippians 2, Paul encouraged the church to be humble. Now, Paul shows us the humility of Jesus Christ (5-8). List the **ways Jesus demonstrates humility**.
- What do we learn about **Christ's nature** from these verses? Why is this significant?
- What does Paul mean that Jesus “**did not count equality with God** a thing to be **grasped**” (6)?
- In what way did Jesus “**empty Himself**” (7)?
- **Humility** is a large part of the pattern of life for our Lord. What are some of the **implications of this for His followers**?
- Think about a relationship or area of your life where it is **difficult for you to be humble**. What do you find yourself **believing at heart-level** that causes you to forsake humility for self-service, rivalry, or conceit?
- Why does Paul believe that there is **power in the Gospel to serve** the interests of others?
- Describe God's **response to Jesus' humility** (9-11). In what ways is Jesus “**highly exalted**”?
- **Every knee will bow and every will tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord** (10-11). What are some ways this is a **source of comfort, confidence, and vision** for followers of Jesus.
- In light of today's passage, **pray together**. Thank the Father for the gift and humiliation of Jesus Christ, His Son. Thank the Father for glory and reign of Jesus Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to give us the mind of Christ Jesus for His ministry & mission.

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