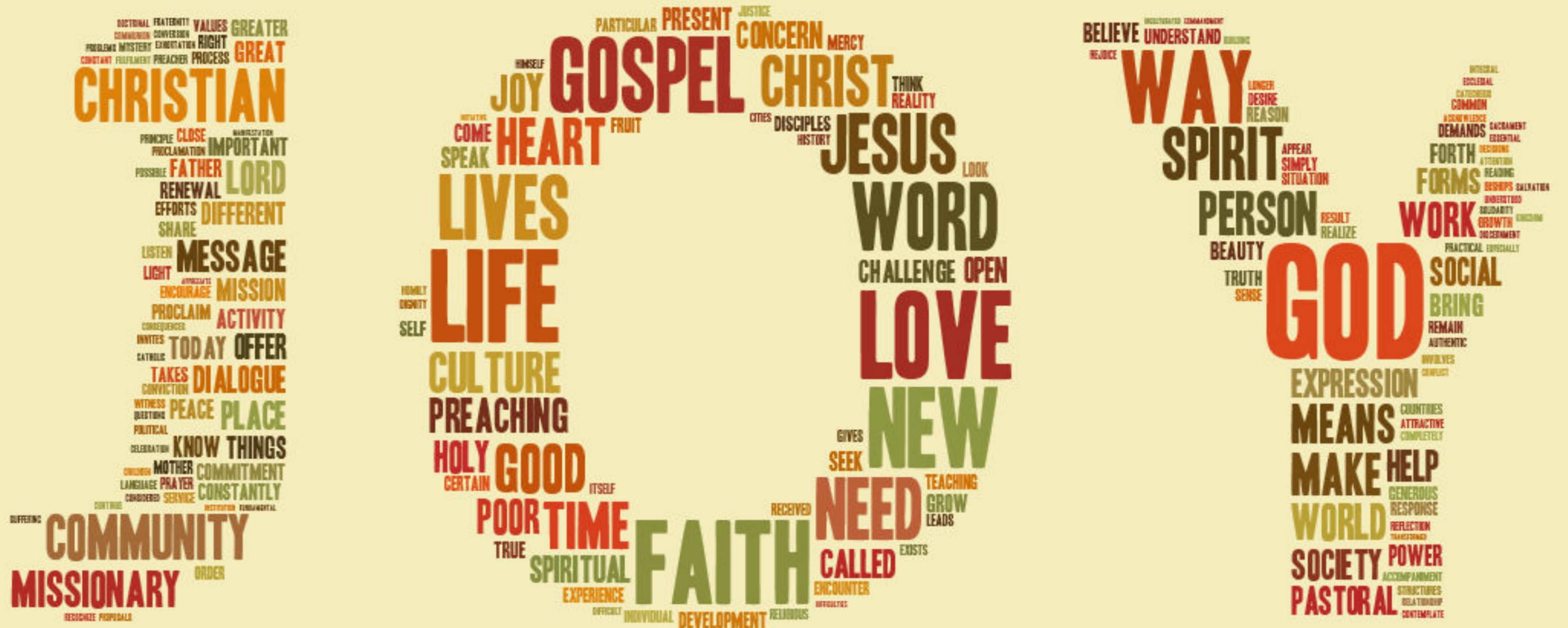


Philippians

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake Phil 1:29

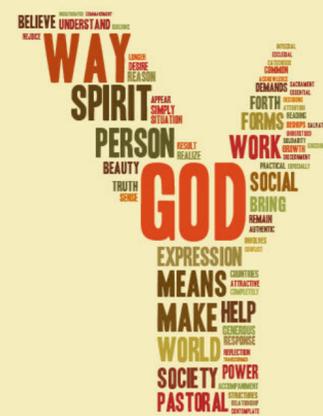
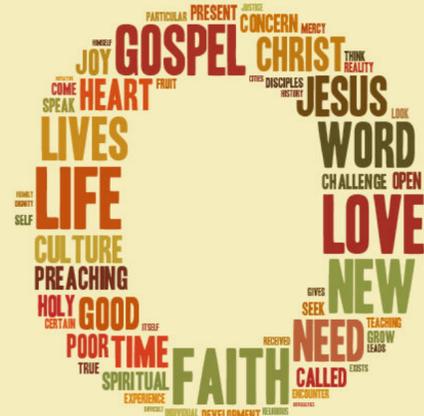


Philippians

*For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him,
but also to suffer for his sake Phil 1:29*

The way to find

is to



Believe!

also to

suffer

Thoughts from last week:

1. Paul was in prison, yet joyful. Which option (life or death) did Paul desire? *Paul desired to be with Christ (death).* And what did he believe was necessary? *To live and preach the gospel. (vs 22-25)*

2. What difference has faith in Jesus made in your feelings about death and dying?

3. How do you fulfill Paul's directive to "let your conversation (conduct) be as it becomes the gospel of Christ (vs 27,29)? *Stand Fast, Strive Together, Suffer for Jesus*

4. List the ten things that Paul prayed for the Philippians. (Phil 1:9-14)

[vs 9] 1. abounding love, 2. growing knowledge (more and more), 3. having judgment.

[vs 10] 4. approving things (discernment), 5. sincerity;

[vs 11] 6. filled with fruits of righteousness;

[vs 12] 7. understanding circumstances

[v12-13]; 8. being confident, 9. being bold, 10. speaking without fear.

Review: (Phil 1:29) For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.

Paul's message in Philippians is about finding joy in all circumstances, even in suffering.

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ...to suffer for his sake;

- * **Those who have faith in Christ will suffer.**
- * **Suffering should not be considered accidental or without purpose.**
- * **Suffering is a blessing because it brings eternal reward.**
- * **Suffering is a tool God uses to accomplish His purposes both in His Son and in His children.**
- * **Suffering matures us as Christians in the present and enables us to be glorified with Christ in the future (see Rom. 8:17).**



Review: (Phil 1:29) For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.

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*For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ...to **suffer for his sake;***

*** Those who have faith in Christ will suffer.**

2 Tim 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

2 Tim 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him....

Phil 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;



Review: (Phil 1:29) For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.

Paul's message in Philippians is about finding joy in all circumstances, even in suffering.

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ...to suffer for his sake;

*** Suffering should not be considered accidental or without purpose.**

1 Pet 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

1 Pet 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.



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*** Suffering is a blessing because it brings eternal reward.**

Matt. 5:1–12 The Beatitudes — vs 10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2 Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

2 Tim 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us [or reign with Him, but not our salvation — see vs 13]



Review: (Phil 1:29) For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.

Paul's message in Philippians is about finding joy in all circumstances, even in suffering.

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ...to suffer for his sake;

*** Suffering is a tool God uses to accomplish His purposes both in His Son and in His children.**

Heb 2:10 For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

1 Pet 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: also will deny us [or reign with Him, but not our salvation — see vs 13]



Review: (Phil 1:29) For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.

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For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ...to suffer for his sake;

- * **Suffering matures us as Christians in the present and enables us to be glorified with Christ in the future (see Rom. 8:17).**

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.



Review: (Phil 1:29) For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.

- * **Consider yourself blessed, if you suffer for His sake.**
- * **Consider yourself worthy, if you suffer for His name.**



November 2009



Review: (Phil 1:29) For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.

*** Consider yourself blessed, if you suffer for His sake.**

*Mat 5:11-12 **Blessed are ye**, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, **for my sake**. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*



Review: (Phil 1:29) For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.

*** Consider yourself worthy, if you suffer for His name.**

*Acts 5:36-41 For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed. And now I say to you, keep away from these men [false teachers] and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it; lest you even be found to fight against God. And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.***



(Phil 2:1-2) If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, {2} Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

- Philippians 2 goes after the heart of our faith. Paul writes about the humbleness that should be present in a believer's life.
- Consolation means comfort or encouragement. It is the Greek word, “paraklesis.” Jesus said He would send the Comforter (John 14:6). That’s “parakletos.” Comfort in Christ is positional(the root); comfort of love is practical (the fruit).
- “any fellowship of the Spirit” = while we are united positionally in the Spirit, we must choose to be united practically. That’s fellowship.
- Bowels is used to imply more than just affection. It is deep seated, inwardly felt affection. Mercies means to have compassion for.

(Phil 2:1-2) If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, {2} Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

- Having comfort in Christ, comfort in love, fellowship in the Spirit, affect and compassion for others is what bring a life of joy and builds unity in the Body of Christ. This would fulfill Paul's joy.
- Paul again indicates for us the importance of being “likeminded” with the “same love” and being of one accord. All of this comes from being of “one mind.” In other words, thinking in the same way. Paul is not speaking of uniformity in all things, rather unity in letting God direct our thoughts and ways.
- Unity in the Body of Christ is demonstrated by being in right fellowship with others. It is internal, being one in heart and mind. It is generated by the Spirit. Uniformity is external. It is generated by ourselves by conforming to the ways of others or the ways of the world.

(Phil 2:1-2) If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, {2} Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

- As in 1:27, Paul again stresses the importance of being of one mind.

Phil 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

- “with one mind” (1 Pet 3:8, Rom 15:6, 2 Cor 13:11) — The mind, and what it thinks on, is what directs us. Right thinking can bring transformation, joy, and strength. A mind set on Christ brings the consolation we have in Christ and the comfort of His love we can share with others. We are to have the mind of Christ; we are to agree and be of one mind with God.
- *1 Cor 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

The Mind of Christ

1 Cor 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

- Our lives move in the direction of our most dominant thoughts. That's why we are told to take every thought captive for Christ by the renewing of our minds:

*2 Cor 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into **captivity** every thought to the obedience of Christ*

*Rom 12:2 be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind***

- Transformation comes by the renewing of the mind, and renewing of the mind comes from knowing God - who He is, what He has done, and our relationship of who we are in Christ. This comes from God speaking to us through His word (Rom 10:17) and our speaking to Him is in prayer (Phil 4:6-7, 1 John 5:14).

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

(Phil 2:3) Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

- “strife” = rivalry, competition, self-ambition
- “vainglory” = conceit, self-centeredness, joy in others pain or setbacks
- “lowliness” = humility
- “of mind” — Again, the mind, our thoughts, mold and direct us.

- Paul is teaching them that to be united they must be humble. They must put away selfishness, personal vanity, haughtiness, and self-interests.

(Phil 2:3) Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

- In humility, “let each esteem other better than themselves” — Of course this means to put others first, but note that it’s not to be done to gain something or “in strife or vainglory” (as Paul already said), but with a genuine humble spirit.

Mary’s Magnificat so beautifully illustrates humbleness of spirit.

Luke 1:46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, {47} And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. {48} For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. {49} For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. {50} And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. {51} He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. {52} He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

{53} He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. {54} He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; {55} As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

Humility

(Phil 2:3) Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. reasonsforhopeJesus.com

- Mary said: (Luke 1: 48, 51, 52) For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden {51} ...He hath scattered the proud... {52} He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

1 Pet 5:5-7 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble. {6} Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: {7} Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

The Gates to the Mind are the ears and the eyes.

I wrote an e-book in 2016 on guarding the gates of our minds. It's titled [Hear, See, Speak & Post No Evil: A Practical Guide for Guarding the Mind](#)

Hearing is important:

Eight times in the synoptic gospels, Jesus said, “he that hath **ears to hear**, let him hear.” He never said this to the Pharisees or scribes, only to the multitudes and one time to the disciples alone. Matt 11:15 (multitudes), 13:9 (multitudes), 13:43 (disciples), Mark 4:9 (multitudes), 4:23 (multitudes), 7:16 (multitudes), Luke 8:8(multitudes), 14:35 (multitudes)

In Revelation, Jesus said it again, seven times to the churches; and John wrote it once (but it was still Jesus speaking, since it's the revelation of Jesus Christ given to John to write) Rev 2:7. 2:11, 2:17, 2:29, Rev 3:6, 3:13, 3:22, Rev 13:9

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Hearing is important. So is seeing.

Looking to God:

Psa 123:1 Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.

Psa 25:15 Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

Psa 141:8 But mine eyes are unto thee, O GOD the Lord: in thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute.

Prov 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

2 Chr 20:12 ...our eyes are upon thee.

The Gates to the Mind are the ears and the eyes.

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Hearing is important. So is seeing.

Seeing Jesus:

*2 Cor 4:18 While we **look not at the things which are seen**, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

*Luke 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then **look up**, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*

*Heb 12:2 **Looking unto** Jesus the author and finisher of our faith*

Life in Christ is meant to be lived by listening to Him (Rom 10:17) and looking unto Him (Heb 12:2). When we look up first, we will then look out to love and serve others. When people are inward focused, it's hard to look out or up.

*(Phil 2:4) **Look** not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

- Paul says that we exhibit humility when we put others before ourselves. That's a choice, directed by our mind — directed by what we hear and where our eyes are focused. Our ear gates are to take in His words and our eye gates are to “see” Him.

How do we “see” Jesus?

*Eph 1:17-18 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: {18} The **eyes of your understanding** being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.*

For a fun “visual” of Jesus, watch the video: [How Do We See Jesus?](#)

Again, Paul reminds the Philippians (and us):

(Phil 2:5) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus

*(Phil 2:5-8) Let this mind be in you, which was also in **Christ Jesus** {6} Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: {7} 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.*

This is known as the kenosis from the Greek word in vs 7, “kenoo.”

The KJV and NKJV translate this as, “made Himself of no reputation.”

Bibles from Alexandrian manuscripts translate it, “emptied Himself.”

While “emptied” is not a wrong translation of the Greek word, sadly, many have wrongly understood it. Some have defined this passage saying, Jesus “emptied Himself” of His divinity—which He did not.

It is better understood that Jesus set aside His divine powers and some of His attributes—meaning He chose not to use them and instead chose to live in His humanity. He became like one of us, 100% human, yet still 100% God.

(Phil 2:5) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus

*(Phil 2:6-8) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: {7} 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 humbled Himself. And He became obedient.
- In His divinity, Jesus could not humble Himself. There was no one greater than He. As God, Jesus could not learn obedience (Heb 5:8). Who would He have been obedient to? Jesus LEARNED obedience as a man. Rome didn't humble Jesus; nor did the Pharisees. Jesus humbled Himself, by submitting in obedience to the Father's will.
- While Jesus was fully God and fully man during His earthly incarnation, He chose to live His life as a man in humble submission to His Father in Heaven.

Because Jesus Humbled Himself and Became Obedient Unto Death

- Man can be filled, because Jesus emptied Himself to live for us.
- Man's sins can be forgiven, because Jesus shed His blood to pay for them.
- Man can be made whole, because Jesus' body was broken for us.
- Man can live, because Jesus died.
- Man doesn't have to work his way up to God, because Jesus came down to save us.
- Man can have hope, because Jesus is Truth and His promises are true.

Because Jesus Humbled Himself and Became Obedient Unto Death

In Christ, we can:

- Love others, because Jesus loves us.
- Forgive others, because Jesus has forgiven us.
- Serve others, because Jesus served us.
- Be worthy before God, because of Jesus' work not ours.
- Be strong, because He is strong for us.
- Be wise, because He's given us His Word.
- Have rest, because of His finished work.
- Have joy, because our names are written in Heaven.
- Have hope, because Jesus is the Truth and His promises are true.

*(Phil 2:9-11) **Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: {10} That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; {11} And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

- Wherefore? Because Jesus lived the perfect, sinless life in humble submission to God's will, God exalted Him.
- Mat 23:12 **And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**
- Luke 14:11 **For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**
- 1 Pet 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

(Phil 2:9-11) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: {10} That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; {11} And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Name above every name...at the name of Jesus...

- Jesus is the given name of God incarnate. It's like our first names. Jesus is the name, the Lord was called when He was a baby, a child, an adult, and still now. But just as we have a surname, or a hereditary name of family, so also does Jesus have a type of surname. It's Jesus Christ, Jesus Messiah. He is the Lord. Jesus Christ is the name and His position as Lord over all will be confessed by every tongue (vs 11).
- We confess that now, "Jesus Christ is Lord," and humble ourselves (bow our knees). But one day, His glory will fill the earth and all will acknowledge Him.

Names and Titles of Jesus

(from *“Why the Butterfly; Rightly Remembering Jesus”* book, pgs 37-38)

1. Advocate 1 John 2:1
2. Almighty Revelation 1:8
3. Alpha (beginning) Revelation 1:8
4. Amen Revelation 3:14
5. Anointed One Acts 10:38
6. Apostle Hebrews 3:1
7. Author & Finisher of our Faith Hebrews 12:2
8. Beginning (Alpha) Revelation 21:6
9. Bishop of Souls 1 Peter 2:25
10. Bread of Life John 6:35,48
11. Bridegroom Matthew 9:15
12. Carpenter Mark 6:3
13. Chief Shepherd 1 Peter 5:4
14. The Christ Matthew 1:16
15. Comforter John 14:16
16. Consolation of Israel Luke 2:25
17. Cornerstone Ephesians 2:20
18. Dayspring Luke 1:78
19. Day Star 2 Peter 1:19
20. Deliverer Rom 11:26
21. Door for the Sheep John 10:7
22. Emmanuel Matthew 1:23
23. End (Omega) Revelation 21:6
24. Faithful and True Witness Revelation 3:14
25. First Fruits 1 Corinthians 15:23
26. Friend of Publicans (sinners) Matthew 11:19
27. Gift of God 2 Corinthians 9:15
28. God John 1:1
29. Glory of God Revelation 21:23
30. Good Shepherd John 10:11
31. Governor Matthew 2:6
32. Great Shepherd Hebrews 13:20
33. Guide Luke 1:79, John 16:13
34. Head of the Body (the Church) Col 1:18
35. High Priest Hebrews 3:1
36. Holy One of God Mark 1:24
37. Hope - Romans 15:13, Titus 2:13
38. Horn of Salvation Luke 1:69
39. I Am John 8:58
40. Jesus Matthew 1:21
41. King of Israel Matthew 27:42
42. King of Kings 1 Tim 6:15, Revelation 19:16

Names and Titles of Jesus

(from *“Why the Butterfly; Rightly Remembering Jesus”* book, pgs 37-38)

43. Lamb of God John 1:29
44. Last Adam 1 Corinthians 15:45
45. Life John 11:25
46. Light of the World John 8:12, 9:5
47. Lion of the Tribe of Judah Revelation 5:5
48. Lord of Lords 1 Timothy 6:15, Revelation 19:16 Lord from Heaven 1 Corinthians 15:47
49. Master Matthew 23:8
50. Mediator 1 Timothy 2:5
51. Messiah John 1:41
52. Minister (Servant) Mark 10:45
53. Morning Star Revelation 22:16
54. Nazarene Matthew 2:23
55. Omega (End) Revelation 1:8
56. Passover Lamb 1 Corinthians 5:7
57. Physician Matthew 9:12
58. Potentate 1 Timothy 6:15
59. Priest Hebrews 4:15
60. Prophet Acts 3:22
61. Propitiation 1 John 2:2
62. Rabbi John 1:49
63. Redeemer Galatians 3:13, Titus 2:14
64. Ransom 1 Timothy 2:6
65. Resurrection John 11:25
66. Rock 1 Corinthians 10:4
67. Root of David Revelation 22:16
68. Sacrifice Ephesians 5:2
69. Saviour Luke 1:47
70. Second Man (Second Adam) 1 Corinthians 15:47 Seed of Abraham Galatians 3:16
71. Seed of David 2 Timothy 2:8
72. Shepherd 1 Peter 2:25
73. Son of David Matthew 15:22
74. Son of God Luke 1:35
75. Son of Man Matthew 18:11
76. Son of Mary Mark 6:3
77. Son of the Highest Luke 1:32
78. Stone Mt 21:42, Acts 4:11
79. True Vine John 15:1
80. Truth John 14:6 Way John 14:6
81. Word John 1:1

*(Phil 2:10-11) ...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; {11} And that every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.*

Jesus Christ is Lord...the shortest doctrinal statement in the Bible

- Paul was paraphrasing from Isaiah: *Isa 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.*
- Paul is proclaiming that Jesus is God: *Isa 26:9 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.*
- Romans 14:11, Paul wrote: *"every knee shall bow, every tongue shall confess..."*

We have no choice about glorifying God. All will glorify Him...either as a trophy of His grace & mercy or as an object of His justice.

(Phil 2:12) Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

- Having humbled the Philippians with reminders of who Jesus is (Jesus Christ the Lord), and how Jesus humbled Himself to His Father's will, Paul now turns to the obligations that the example of Christ lays on Christians. (Vs. 2:12-18)
- Verse 12 says to “work out your own salvation.”

This is not working for salvation. This is about working from salvation.

This is about sanctification, not justification.

Justification is positional. We cannot work for it or earn it.

Sanctification is practical. We are called to work out our own sanctification and we have the Holy Spirit to help us. The next verse tells us this:

(Phil 2:13) For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

- “For,” at the beginning of Paul’s statement, indicates that we do not work alone. We have God working in us as we work for Him.
- We were created for God’s pleasure, to honor and glorify Him in all things:

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

(Phil 2:14-18) Do all things without murmurings and disputings: {15} That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; {16} Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Paul now gets specific (Vs. 2:14-18).

- *Do ALL things without murmurings and disputing.* We have nothing to murmur and complain about. God works all things to our good and for His glory.
- *Shine as lights in the world.* Being a shining light ultimately means we are representatives of Christ, public relations specialists, working for Him and representing Him in the world.
- *Holding forth the word of life* — “Holding forth” means to apply, present, or offer; “the word of life” refers to Christ Himself (1 John 1:1). Paul wrote that believers, as children of God, are to present the living Christ to those around them.
- *The day of Christ* — the Rapture of the Church (Phil 1:6,10, 2:16, 2 Cor 1:14, 1 Cor 5:5, 2 Thess 2:2)

(Phil 2:19-24) But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

{20} For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

{21} For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

{22} But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. {23} Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

{24} But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

- Vs 19: Paul would find comfort (encouragement) in knowing they were well and strong.
- Vss 20-23: Paul wrote that he would send Timothy. He trusted Timothy because Timothy had been like a son to him and served with him, and the Philippians knew of this.
- Vs. 24: Paul's great hope was to visit them again.

(Phil 2:25-30) Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellow soldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. {26} For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. {27} For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. {28} I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. {29} Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: {30} Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

- Paul tells them that he will send Epaphroditus to them. Epaphroditus was a messenger, but not an apostle. Paul mentions him in words of esteem and affection.

*(Phil 2:25-30) Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus...
{29} Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in
reputation: {30} Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not
regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.*

- Epaphroditus was a Macedonian Christian and a leader in the Philippian church. He was sent to the apostle Paul during Paul's first Roman imprisonment to deliver gifts (Phil 4:18) and to assist the apostle in his work (Phil 2:25).
- While in Rome, Epaphroditus became seriously ill and nearly died. After a period of convalescence he returned to Philippi with Paul's letter instructing the church to "receive him in the Lord with all joy" (2:29).
- Epaphroditus's devoted service (even to the point of risking his life) endeared him to the Philippian believers and to Paul, who termed him "brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier" (2:25).

Thoughts for the week:

What can we say for certain about Jesus based on verses 5-11?

How do we “work out” our salvation (verse 12)?

What does it look like for Christians to be “faultless” in our culture?

What is usually the cause of “grumbling and arguing?”

(vv. 25-30) : Where do you see people risking their lives for the gospel in the world today? What risks do you take for the sake of the gospel?

Philippians 2 — Precious Verses

Philippians 2:2-3 *Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

Philippians 2:5-7 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

Philippians 2:9-13 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*