

Philippians 2.1-11

The Way Up is Down

Jesus prayer night before Cross: John 17.21 “that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Prayer of Paul for Philippians: 1.27 “that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel”

16 X’s uses word for ONE = with, together, different words for UNITY

Believers UNITED: WHY import to Head of Church /Apostle 2 Gentiles? Heart of Gospel:

Reconciliation: God turns Enemies into Sons & Daughters

1 John 4.20 "If someone says, 'I love God,' but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?"

Non-Xtians won't Believe God reconciles IF they cannot See it in Church

Disunity Turns church IN on Itself – Instead of Serving World in Need

Paul returns to Theme of UNITY in church w Greatest Possible Example

1. The Humble Christ

vs. 5-11 One of Greatest NT Passages @ Person & Work of Jesus Christ

Person: WHO is Jesus? – Work: WHAT has Jesus done for Us?

One of Most Studied passages in NT > perhaps Early Xtian HYMN

Most Impt NOT Style or Structure > Statement makes @ JESUS

v. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus

Unique place in Bible > Viewpoint of Lord Jesus X and Heavenly Father

How does God Himself SEE the Gospel > Heart of Godhead in Salvation

3 different mindsets or attitudes being described.

a. Mindset of Savior, Lord Jesus

Begins w Him in Glory and Ends with him Glorified

Mindset of the Lord Jesus is Surprising and Extraordinary

He has come into the world in extraordinary humility.

3 things about Jesus: 1st In form of God by Nature and Right

v 6 “who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped”

v. 6 “in the form of God” / “in very nature God” / “equality with God”

Greatness of our Lord’s Self-Humbling measured by How LOW He went
Jesus did NOT Grasp or Jealously Guard His RIGHTS as Son of God

In the form of God, he was God - attributes of God = attributes of Jesus
very Son of God / shares nature of God > Center of Throne of God

Instead of grasping that and holding on to all the external and internal Privileges of that. He came
into this world in an amazing Incarnation.

Didn't count equality w God, something to be grasped

He made himself Nothing > He did not grasp that equality with God
willing to yield to his heavenly father's purposes for our salvation

2nd He came into World Empty-Handed v. 7 “but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men”

Ultra-Sound to See into womb Virgin Mary > Tiny, Helpless Lord Jesus tiny embryo fetal position - darkness of mother's womb / from burning light of Glory into darkness of womb of teenage virgin girl

Empty himself all external expressions of his deity by Nature & by Right

Even Knowledge: Not Know Date of Return / Rev: Coming Soon!

America Civil War > Gen George B. McClellan in Charge Army of Potomac

Public Opinion on his Side > “a young Napoleon”: Lincoln > Gen in Chief

Hoped Light Fire under McClellan > Get Out and Win the War – NOT!

Lincoln 2 Staff visit McC > H.Q. > Not here – went to Wedding!

Pres sat & waited 2 hrs, McC Returned: Straight to Bed > Too Tired See L

L’s staff Furious > Wanted L to FIRE McClellan > Lincoln was Quiet

“This is no time to be making points of etiquette and personal dignity...I would hold McClellan’s horse if only he would bring us success!”

Humility made Abe Lincoln 1 of America's Best Presidents

In Form of God but Not Counting Equality w God Thing to be Grasped

Opposite of Adam's Failure in EDEN > Man who wanted to be Like God

Serpent's Kool-Aid – Fruit of Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil: Eye's Open! Like GOD!

Jesus GOD took Human Flesh to OBEY God's Law Fully & Joyfully!

3rd Obedient to Pt of Death & being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to point of death, even death on a cross.

What in Jesus mind when going thru life & knew was going to the Cross?

Chiefly in His mind > I will be obedient to my heavenly father's desire for me as my make
my way to Calvary to be the savior of Sinners.

to become obedient to death > particular kind of death > the Cross

1st C Rome > Words 'Crucify'/'crucifixion' was Obscenity.

what you think of me this morning > out my mouth came obscenity?

death sentence by crucifixion pronounced, formula never said cross

He came from Heaven's highest glory to Rome's deepest obscenity

J.H. Jowett "Ministry that costs nothing, accomplishes nothing..."

If there is No Bleeding there will be No Blessing...

b. Mindset of the Father of our Lord Jesus

Mystery & Marvel of Incarnation > from Glory to Obscenity

Willing mindset of the Lord Jesus to become our Savior

What is God his Father going to do?

Gospels >> Jesus knew that his father always loved him

within that amazing relationship: heavenly father & his incarnate son

Stooped so low for us > "If ever I loved you, my Jesus. Tis now"

He experienced deepest & darkest obscenity of bearing my sin upon Cross

He describes the exaltation & Glory of the Lord Jesus in 3 stages

1st God has highly exalted Him v. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

Call Jesus Lord – Greek ‘Kurios’ – 6000 X’s in OT in Greek = GOD

Paul NOT making Personal Statement of Devotion > Declaring FACT

Whole Creation will Bow Down before Lord Jesus Christ

Exalted to Right Hand of Father > Reveals True Identity Son of God

2nd Father given him Name above every Name: v. 10 so that at name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven & on earth & under the earth,

1st X Sermon preached on Pentecost > Peter: Outpouring of Holy Spirit

Reason > Savior, crucified for our sins, raised up in Resurrection by the Power of His Father &

Now he's Seated at the Right Hand of God

This same Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.

His Father has Vindicated him by Exalting Him.

All ranks of Heaven's Angels / All Redeemed round His Throne

Every Knee will Bow > Every Tongue Confess > Jesus Christ is Lord

3rd Every Tongue Confess v. 11 every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Mind of Heavenly Father: Deepest Passion Son have Name above All

Creates wonder & awe & love & faith > that every knee will bow.

mindset of the Savior >> mindset of the father >> mindset of the believer

Flows from Believers understanding of mindset of Savior & Father, What?

REASON Great Picture of Jesus v. 5 “have this mind among yourselves”

St. Augustine asked, “What are the central principles of the Xtian life?”

3 Things – 1st Humility, 2nd Humility, 3rd Humility

2. The Humble Church

When There is FAILURE in Fellowship > Natural to be CRITICAL

Paul is WISER & Deeper – Knows that Only Hope is GRACE of God

v. 1 4 IF’s --- Not Doubting, but Challenges them to THINK & Confess

IF = SINCE You have been GIVEN Much Grace > Will you Give it Away

1. Being United w Christ 1 “So if there is any encouragement in Christ”

‘in X’ 90 X’s Paul’s Fav Descript of Xtian > X Alone All Things NEW

I embrace him in faith, as he has offered to me in the gospel

The Father's highest desire for me > I should be more & more like his Son

Living the Christian Life this week will not be rocket science.

Moment by moment. Commitment to the Lord Jesus.

2. Comfort from His Love v. 1 if there is any...comfort from love

Have U felt Secure Grip of Love of X?

3. Participation in Spirit v. 1 if there is any... participation in the Spirit

TODAY is Pentecost / Spirit that UNITES w Christ / Baptism = UNION

Spirit of God who FILLED Jesus Now Fills OUR Hearts

4. Affection and Sympathy v. 1 if there is any... affection & sympathy

Jesus: Gently, Lowly, Meek / X’s Family: LOOK Like: Child of GOD

If those 4 things are True > These are the Then’s

1. Joy of Others v. 2 “complete my joy by being of the same mind”

If the Church is United in Love > Apostle has JOY

Asks what is More Important > Your Self-Indulgence or My JOY?

Test of Motives > Will what I DO bring Joy to those who Care for Me?

2. Unity with Others v. 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Mind of Christ is reproduced in the Minds of Believers.

Biblical Truth more than Correct Facts > Speak Truth in Love

Truth w/out Love is too HARD / Love w/out Truth is too SOFT

How does Church get One Mind? Prayer, Discussion, Consensus, Waiting

Roberts Rules of Order > 51 % Wins! Jesus Lost!

3. Value of Others vs. 3,4 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

X counted our Salvation More Important than Preserving His Own Life

Want Others to Grow in X // X gave Self that we Might Grow in Faith

Alternative > Not just Being Avg, Mediocre Xtian: Rivalry, Conceit

In Social Scale of Ancient World: HUMILITY never Considered Virtue

Jesus' Kingdom is Upside/Down – Going Low is only way to Get High!

We replace the Value System of World with the Values of HEAVEN

Secret of Christian unity is humility > don't have that by Nature

So, how do we get it? You begin to get it. When you begin to get this!

He came from highest Heaven to deepest obscenity for my salvation.

I can't have the exalted Jesus without embracing the humiliated Jesus

By God's grace. I will count you as more important than myself.

If that were to happen to those of us who were in this room?

Coconut Wireless have some Good News > Jesus is Real @ Kalahikiola

Tap into Pentecost > Pray that God would Fill w/ Spirit & Forgive Sins

Psalm 79 // O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins. // **They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the heavens for food, the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth.** // They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them. // **We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us.** // How long, O Lord? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealousy burn like fire? // **Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call upon your name!** // For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation. // **Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.** // Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake! // **Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let the avenging of the outpoured blood of your servants be known among the nations before our eyes!** // Let the groans of the prisoners come before you; according to your great power, preserve those doomed to die! // **Return sevenfold into the lap of our neighbors the taunts with which they have taunted you, O Lord!** // But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; // **from generation to generation we will recount your praise. Amen and Amen.**