

Humiliation And Exaltation

BIBLE BASIS: Lesson Scripture:

Philippians 2:1-11

BIBLE TRUTH:

Every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord.

Rev. 17:14, Rev. 19:11-16

MEMORY VERSE:

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

Lesson Aim:

That we learn to be humble and to obey the Word of God even when our thoughts and feeling are resisting. Matt. 16:21-26, Prov. 14:12, Isa. 55:8-9, 2Cor. 10:3-5, Gal. 5:16-17

Introduction

- The Philippians church was a strong church. When a church is strong, it is always full of vision and planning, and it is always working out a strategy to carry forth the gospel. A strong church launches ministry after ministry and program after program. Because of this, there is always the danger of differences of opinion: differences in vision, desires, concern, emphasis, and interest. So to keep the peace and unity among themselves Paul gives specific instructions. Phil. 4:1-9
- The point is this: the more strength and activity a church has, the more attention it must give to unity. Why? Because a strong church has more minds and bodies working, and where more people are working more differences are bound to arise. Consequently, the members must give more attention to unity. Eph. 4:3, 1Cor. 3:3
- Paul knew this; he knew that he had to put the Philippians church on guard. The church had to protect itself against disunity and division. This weeks lesson is about the first step to unity, Christ—allowing His life to be lived out in us. Gal 2:20, Phil 2:12-13
- Through the redemptive work of the cross, Jesus was able to reconnect us to our original source. Let me illustrate, the hard drive has been installed but now comes the more difficult part, the installation of the new software of a renewed mind. We must align our thoughts life with the mind of Christ. Rom. 12:1-3

The Stuff We Need To Maintain Unity

- Philip. 2:1 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.
- Here Paul mentions five principles we have in Christ that will maintain the unity in the church.
- The first principle is consolation which means to encourage one another. 1John 4:11-12
- The second principle mentioned is comfort of love which means we must love one another. 1John 4:7-8, John 13:34-35
- The third principle mentioned is fellowship of the Spirit. The Holy spirit joins us together in a partnership and makes us one in life and purpose. 1Cor. 12:13-14, Gal. 3:27-28
- The fourth principle mentioned is bowels and mercy. Bowels is to have compassion, the compassion that causes us to respond to the needs of others regardless of fault. Matt. 9:36-38
- The opposite of mercy is judgment. As believer we must maintain the role of a defense attorney rather than the role of the prosecuting attorney. 1John 2:1-2, Rev. 12:10-11
- The fifth principle mentioned is joy. Joy is the internal strength of a believers life. It can only be maintained by unity. To have unity we must avoid criticism, arguments, complaining. Neh.8:10, Phil.2:14-15

Keeping The Right Attitude

- [3] Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. [4] Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.
- Being motivated to do something for the Lord is a good thing, however, we must not fall victim to immature motives such as vain glory. Vain glory is giving into; jealousy, envy, loving flattery, desire for position, desire for recognition, forming cliques. These are things people resort to when they don't get their way and have lost their peace. James 3:14-18, John 12:43
- The spirit that must prevail in a strong church is lowliness of mind. In fact, the only way a church can remain strong and be blessed by God is for its people to walk in a spirit of humility. Gal. 5:15-17
- As believers we must forget about ourselves. We must be willing to sub-ordinate our own ambition, desires, position, recognition, honor, for the sake of others. Gal. 6:8-10
- The shut-in and helpless, the hungry and cold, the sinful and doomed of our cities, need what we have. We need to be thinking on the things of others. We need to be out; visiting the sick, transporting, listening, sharing, feeding, clothing, teaching. Matt. 25:43, Luke 9:23-24
- Every believer needs to be involved in ministry outside these four walls. Luke 14:23, 2Cor. 5:17-19

Let Christ Invade Your Thought Life

- [5] Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
- The greatest challenge of those who have been reconnected with the Creator is having our attitude correspond with the mind of Christ who now dwells within us. We have been reconnected to our source, but, the second step is that our thoughts align themselves with the truth of the word of God. John 8:31-33
- Who can this be accomplished? By faith, before a belief becomes our own, it must move into our subconscious mind. In your conscience mind, you can know the truth, but if this knowledge is not in your sub-conscience mind, then you still won't behave like a free man. If your heart is not changed then your just a new creature with an old mind.
- Jesus gives us insight on how to use the new software. He says, he who had ears to hear, let him hear. Some people just want to listen; they don't want to hear, so it never gets into their sub-conscience mind. The only way to get things into our sub-conscience mind is through repetition. Ps. 1:1-3, Ps. 119
- When you download something unto your computer, you have to wait until it is finished before you can use it. You cannot rush it or force it to download. It is the same with your heart. You have to patiently allow the new information to settle into your subconscious mind through repetition until it settles in. Ps. 119:11, Prov. 4:23

Jesus Is God

- [6] Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
- Christ is of the very nature of God. This is critical to note, for it means that Jesus Christ was not like God; He is God. John 1:1
- Jesus Christ did not just achieve a high level of righteousness when on earth, He was the very embodiment of righteousness..
- Jesus Christ is “equal with God” The word “equal” means to be on an same level with God; to possess all the qualities and attributes of God Himself.
- Jesus never claimed anything that didn’t already belong to him. Note also the word “robbery.” It is the picture of a thief seeking to snatch or take something that is not his. When Jesus Christ was on earth, He was constantly claiming; to be God, to be the Son of God, to have the nature of God, to be one with God. John 14:7-15
- Was He a thief? Was He robbing and snatching the title of God or was He truly God? Jesus Christ did not have to rob or snatch at equality with God. He did not have to rob and grasp after the deity of God; He was already on an equal basis with God. John 10:27-38

Jesus Became A Man

- [7]. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
- Christ was not interested in making a name for himself. He was more concerned with doing his Father's will. Heb. 10:4-10
- To save mankind it was necessary for God to become man lest he violate his own word and integrity. Gen. 1:28
- Jesus Christ took one great step down from heaven to earth. He stepped down and became a man. He became the Servant, not only of God, but the *servant of men*. Imagine! The Lord whom we are to love, came and loved us. The Lord whom we are to wait upon, came and waited upon us. The Lord whom we are to minister to, came and ministered to us. The Lord whom we are to seek, came and sought us. 2 Cor. 8:9
- Christ did not lay aside His deity when He came to earth. He could not cease to be who He was: God. John 17:5
- Christ laid aside some of His rights as God; He laid aside His right to experience only the glory and majesty, honor and worship of heaven. Men would treat Him far differently than a heavenly being. Heb. 2:16-18, 4:14-16
- Jesus Christ “was made in the likeness of men.” The word “was made” means to become; a definite entrance into time. It is not a permanent state. It was only for a time, a particular period. In the fulness of time. Gal. 4:4

A Real Man Will Obey God

- [8] And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
- Jesus Christ humbled Himself and was obedient to God the Father. It was the Father's will for Christ to come to earth and willingly die for the sins of men. Rom. 5:19, Heb. 10:9
- Jesus Christ humbled Himself to men. He willingly allowed men to kill Him. He did not have to bear such hostile humiliation and rebellion, but He did. John 10:18, Heb. 2:9
- Jesus Christ became not only a man but sin for us and bore sins penalty of death. He also became a curse for us. He experience death and hell for us. 2 Cor. 5:21, Gal. 3:13, Rev. 1:17-18
- We must let the mind of Christ flow in and through us. We are to walk in humility before each other. We are to live and breathe unity. There is to be no discord in God's church: no divisiveness, no grumbling, no murmuring, no downing of others, no jealousy, no personal ambition, no self-seeking no prejudice, no air of superiority, no criticism
- The only way we can ever know such unity is to let the mind of Christ captivate our mind by studying, thinking, and learning Christ. Phil 2:1

He That Humble Himself Shall Be Exalted

- [9] 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
- One of the common biblical ideas is the giving of a new name to mark a new and definite stage in a mans life. Abram became Abraham, Jacob became Israel. Gen. 17:5 Gen 32:38.
- What then is the new name which was given to Jesus Christ? We cannot be quite certain what exactly was in Paul's mind, but most likely the new name is Lord.
- It is a name of power and authority. We must confess Jesus is Lord in order to be saved. Rom. 10:8
- When Jesus is called Lord, it means that he is not only my Savior but he also my Lord, my Master and Owner to all that confess him.
- This names makes Jesus the Lord of lord, and the King of kings. The name is also an indication that we ultimately win.
- If you are in a struggle today don't give up, keep on fighting no matter how difficult the situation appears, we have already won. John 17:4
- Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is exactly who He claimed to be: the Son of the living God. Rev. 5:7-12