

Message Two

Knowing and Experiencing Christ as the Pattern

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Phil. 2:3-9; 1:19-21a

- Phil 2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;
- Phil 2:4 Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.
- Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
- Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
- Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
- Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
- Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

I. If we would know Christ as the pattern, we should let the mind which was in Christ Jesus be in us—Phil. 2:5:

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

- A. We need to take Christ's mind as our mind, opening ourselves to "let this mind" be in us—vv. 3-5:

Phil 2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;

Phil 2:4 Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.

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

1. This in verse 5 refers to the considering in verse 3 and the regarding in verse 4.

Phil 2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;

Phil 2:4 Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.

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

2. Lowliness of mind is in contrast to both selfish ambition and vainglory (v. 3); this must not be our natural lowliness but the lowliness of Christ (v. 8).

Phil 2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

3. This kind of mind, this kind of thinking, was in Christ when He emptied Himself and

humbled Himself—vv. 7-8.

Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

- B. To have “this mind” requires us to be one with Christ in His inward parts, in His tender, inward feeling and in His thinking—1:8.

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

- C. For the mind of Christ to be in us means that this mind is something living; actually, the mind of Christ is Christ Himself, for the person of Christ is manifested in His mind—2:5; cf. 1 Cor. 2:16, footnote 1.

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
2:161 (Footnote 1) Because we are organically one with Christ, we have all the faculties that He has. The mind is the faculty of intelligence, the understanding organ. We have such an organ, the mind of Christ; hence, we can know what He knows. We have not only the life of Christ but also the mind of Christ. Christ must saturate our mind from our spirit, making our mind one with His.

II. In order to experience Christ, we need to know Him as the pattern—Phil. 2:5-9:

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

- A. In Philippians 2:5-9 Paul presents Christ as the pattern; we need to have this pattern infused into us.

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

- B. The pattern of the Christian life is the God-man Savior, who emptied Himself and humbled Himself and who has been exalted and glorified by God—vv. 6-9:

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

1. Although the Lord was equal with God, He did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped and retained; rather, He emptied Himself, laying aside what He possessed—the form of God—vv. 6-7a:

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
Phil 2:7a But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, ...

- a. In His incarnation the Lord did not alter His divine nature.
- b. He changed only the outward expression, from the form of God to the form of a slave.

2. The Lord became “in the likeness of men”—vv. 7b-8a:

Phil 2:7b ...becoming in the likeness of men;
Phil 2:8a And being found in fashion as a man, ...

- a. The form of God implies the inward reality of Christ’s deity; the likeness of men denotes the outward appearance of His humanity—vv. 6-7.

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

- b. He appeared to men as a man outwardly, but as God, He had the reality of deity inwardly—John 1:1, 14, 18; 3:16; Rom. 8:3.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.
John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.
Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

- c. Christ entered into the condition of humanity, and He was found in fashion as a man—Phil. 2:8a.

Phil 2:8a And being found in fashion as a man, ...

3. Christ humbled Himself by becoming obedient even unto death—the death of a cross—v. 8b:

Phil 2:8b ...He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

- a. Humbling Himself was a further step in emptying Himself.
- b. Christ’s self-humbling manifested His self-emptying—vv. 7-8.

Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

- c. The death of a cross was the climax of Christ’s humiliation.

4. The Son willingly emptied Himself to become a created man as the representation of submission to authority—vv. 6-8:

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

a. The Lord Jesus set His heart to subject Himself to the way of submission, even unto death—Isa. 50:7; Luke 9:51; Mark 10:31-34.

Isa 50:7 The Lord Jehovah helps me; / Therefore I have not been dishonored; / Therefore I have set my face like a flint, / And I know that I will not be put to shame.

Luke 9:51 And as the days were being fulfilled for Him to be taken up, He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.

Mark 10:31 But many first will be last, and the last first.

Mark 10:32 Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus led the way before them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that were about to happen to Him:

Mark 10:33 Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and to the scribes. And they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles,

Mark 10:34 And they will mock Him and spit at Him and scourge Him, and they will kill Him. And after three days He will rise.

b. “Even though He was a Son,” the Lord “learned obedience from the things which He suffered”—Heb. 5:8:

Heb 5:8 Even though He was a Son, learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

(1) God ordained that Christ should die, and Christ obeyed—Phil. 2:8.

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

(2) He learned this obedience through the suffering of death.

c. The Lord, who was submissive throughout His life, has given us His life of submission; a believer’s obedience is a consequence of taking Christ as a pattern of obedience—v. 8; Col. 3:4.

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

5. The Lord humbled Himself to the uttermost, but God exalted Him to the highest peak and bestowed on Him “the name which is above every name”— Phil. 2:9.

Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

III. There is an urgent need among us in the Lord’s recovery today to experience Christ as our pattern—vv. 3-8:

Phil 2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;

Phil 2:4 Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.

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

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto

death, and that the death of a cross.

- A. Christ as our pattern is not only objective but also subjective and experiential; the One who set up the pattern and who Himself is the pattern is now operating within us as the indwelling God—vv. 5, 12-13.

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

Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

- B. The principle of Christ as the inward pattern for our living is that even if we have the highest standard of the highest position, we should not grasp it—vv. 3-6.

Phil 2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;

Phil 2:4 Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.

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

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

- C. We need to live Christ in His human living, especially in His emptying Himself and humbling Himself and in His not grasping equality with God as a treasure—1:20-21a; 2:6:

Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

1. We have a life in us that is self-emptying and self-humbling.

2. This life never grasps at something as a treasure but is always willing to lay aside position and title—vv. 3-6.

Phil 2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;

Phil 2:4 Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.

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

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

- D. We have Christ crucified as our pattern, and this pattern is the crucified life within us—1 Cor. 1:23a; 2:2; Gal. 2:20; 3:1; 6:14:

1 Cor 1:23a But we preach Christ crucified, ...

1 Cor 2:2 For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was openly portrayed crucified?

Gal 6:14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.

1. The steps of Christ's humiliation in Philippians 2:5-8 are aspects of the crucified life lived out in a full way.

- Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
 Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
 Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
 Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
2. Christ's being obedient unto the death of the cross was the crucified life lived out in a full and absolute way—v. 8.
- Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
3. When we live Christ, we live the One who is the pattern of a crucified life— 1:21a; 1 Cor. 2:2.
- Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...
 1 Cor 2:2 For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified.
4. By living a crucified life, we can experience the power of resurrection—Phil. 3:10a; Eph. 1:19-22.
- Phil 3:10a To know Him and the power of His resurrection ...
 Eph 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,
 Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
 Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
 Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
5. The highest life on earth is a crucified life; whenever we live a crucified life, God will bring us into resurrection—Phil. 3:10-11.
- Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
 Phil 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.
6. Christ is exalted in our daily life as we, by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, take Him as the crucified life to be the pattern of our daily life—2:5; 1:19-21a.
- Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
 Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
 Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
 Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...