

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, which is slightly blurred. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The central text is overlaid on the book's pages.

Call to Worship

Psalm 34:11-18

Psalm 34:11-18 Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

My Jesus, I Love You

Hymn 456



It Is Well With My Soul

Hymn 495



Receiving of the Offering



2 Cor. 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“If you will not have death unto sin, you shall have sin unto death. There is no alternative. If you do not die to sin, you shall die for sin. If you do not slay sin, sin will slay you.”

CHARLES SPURGEON



Today's Message

“Christ's Example, Part 2”

Scripture text: Philippians 2:1-18

The secret of joy in spite of circumstances is the **single mind**. The secret of joy in spite of people is the **submissive mind**.

The key verse is: **Philippians 2:3** Do nothing from rivalry [strife] or conceit [vainglory], but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

In Philippians 1, it is “**Christ first**” and in Philippians 2 it is “**others next.**” Paul the soul winner in Philippians 1 becomes Paul the servant in Philippians 2.

It is important that we understand what the Bible means by “humility.” The humble person is not one who thinks meanly of himself; he simply does not think of himself at all! (I think Andrew Murray said that.) Humility is that grace that, when you know you have it, you have lost it. The truly humble person knows himself and accepts himself (Rom. 12:3).

He yields himself to Christ to be a servant, to use what he is and has for the glory of God and the good of others. “Others” is the key idea in this chapter (Phil. 2:3–4); the believer’s eyes are turned away from himself and focused on the needs of others.

Romans 12:1-3 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that **by testing** you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

The “submissive mind” **does not mean** that the believer is at the beck and call of everybody else or that he is a “religious doormat” for everybody to use!

Some people try to purchase friends and maintain church unity by “giving in” to everybody else’s whims and wishes. This is not what Paul is suggesting at all. The Scripture puts it perfectly: “ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake” (2 Cor. 4:5).

If we have the single mind of Philippians 1, then we will have no problem with the submissive mind of Philippians 2.

2 Corinthians 4:1-5 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But **we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word**, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.**

Philippians 2:5-8 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, **he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Proverb 1:23 Turn you at my correction: loe, **I will pour out my mind unto you**, and make you understand my words. (1599 Geneva Bible)

The “mind” of Christ means the “attitude” Christ exhibited.

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5, niv).

Php 2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (ESV)

After all, outlook determines outcome. If the outlook is selfish, the actions will be divisive and destructive.

G.I.G.O.

James 4:1-4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, **so you fight and quarrel.** You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

These verses in Philippians take us to eternity past. **“Form of God”** has nothing to do with shape or size. God is Spirit (John 4:24), and as such is not to be thought of in human terms. When the Bible refers to “the eyes of the Lord” or “the hand of the Lord,” it is not claiming that God has a human shape. Rather, it is using human terms to describe divine attributes (the characteristics of God) and activities. The word “form” means “the outward expression of the inward nature.” **This means that in eternity past, Jesus Christ was God.** In fact, Paul states that He was “equal with God.” Other verses such as John 1:1–4; Colossians 1:15; and Hebrews 1:1–3 also state **that Jesus Christ is God.**

Certainly as God, Jesus Christ did not need anything! He had all the glory and praise of heaven. With the Father and the Spirit, He reigned over the universe. But Philippians 2:6 states an amazing fact: **He did not consider His equality with God as “something selfishly to be held on to.”** Jesus did not think of Himself; He thought of others. **His outlook (or attitude) was that of unselfish concern for others.** This is **“the mind of Christ,”** an attitude that says, **“I cannot keep my privileges for myself, I must use them for others; and to do this, I will gladly lay them aside and pay whatever price is necessary.”**

It would be worthwhile to contrast Christ's attitude with that of Lucifer (Isa. 14:12–15) and Adam (Gen. 3:1–7). Many Bible students believe that the fall of Lucifer is a description of the fall of Satan. He once was the highest of the angelic beings, close to the throne of God (Ezek. 28:11–19), but **he desired to be on the throne of God!** Lucifer said, **“I will!”** but Jesus said, **“Thy will.”** Lucifer was not satisfied to be a creature; he wanted to be the Creator!

Jesus was the Creator, yet He willingly became man.

Christ's humility is a rebuke to Satan's pride.

We expect unsaved people to be selfish and grasping, but **we do not expect this of Christians**, who have experienced the love of Christ and the fellowship of the Spirit (Phil. 2:1–2).

More than twenty times in the New Testament, **God instructs us how to live with “one another.”** We are **to prefer one another** (Rom. 12:10), **edify one another** (1 Thes. 5:11), and **bear each other’s burdens** (Gal. 6:2). We should **not judge one another** (Rom. 14:13) but rather **admonish one another** (Rom. 15:14). Others is the key word in the vocabulary of the Christian who exercises the submissive mind.

Thinking of “others” in an abstract sense only is insufficient; **we must get down to the nitty-gritty of true service.** A famous philosopher wrote glowing words about educating children but abandoned his own. It was easy for him to love children in the abstract, but when it came down to practice, that was something else. **Jesus thought of others and became a servant!** Paul traces the steps in the humiliation of Christ: **(1)** He emptied Himself, laying aside the independent use of His own attributes as God; **(2)** He permanently became a human, in a sinless physical body; **(3)** He used that body to be a servant; **(4)** He took that body to the cross and willingly died.

What grace! From heaven to earth, from glory to shame, from Master to servant, from life to death, “even the death of the cross!” In the Old Testament Age, Christ had visited earth on occasion for some special ministry (Gen. 18), but these visits were temporary. When Christ was born at Bethlehem, He entered into a permanent union with humanity from which there could be no escape. He willingly humbled Himself that He might lift us up! Note that Paul uses the word “form” again in Philippians 2:7, **“the outward expression of the inward nature.”** Jesus did not pretend to be a servant; He was not an actor playing a role. **He actually was a servant!** This was the true expression of His innermost nature. **He was the God-Man, Deity and humanity united in one, and He came as a servant.**

Have you noticed as you read the four Gospels that it is Jesus who serves others, not others who serve Jesus? He is at the beck and call of all kinds of people—fishermen, harlots, tax collectors, the sick, the sorrowing. “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:28). In the Upper Room, when His disciples apparently refused to minister, Jesus arose, laid aside His outer garments, put on the long linen towel, and washed their feet! (John 13) He took the place of a menial slave! **This was the submissive mind in action—and no wonder Jesus experienced such joy!**

Many people are willing to serve others if it does not cost them anything. But if there is a price to pay, they suddenly lose interest. Jesus “**became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross**” (*Philippians 2:8* *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*).

His was not the death of a martyr but the death of a Savior. He willingly laid down His life for the sins of the world.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Dr. J.H. Jowett has said, **“Ministry that costs nothing accomplishes nothing.”** If there is to be any blessing, there must be some **“bleeding.”**

At a religious festival in Brazil, a missionary was going from booth to booth, examining the wares. He saw a sign above one booth: **“Cheap Crosses.”** He thought to himself, “That’s what many Christians are looking for these days—cheap crosses. My Lord’s cross was not cheap. Why should mine be?”

The person with the submissive mind does not avoid sacrifice. He lives for the glory of God and the good of others; and if paying a price will honor Christ and help others, he is willing to do it.

This was Paul's attitude (Phil. 2:17), Timothy's (Phil. 2:20), and also Epaphroditus' (Phil. 2:30). Sacrifice and service go together if service is to be true Christian ministry.

The test of the submissive mind is not just how much we are willing to take in terms of suffering, but **how much we are willing to give in terms of sacrifice.**

It is one of the paradoxes of the Christian life that the more we give, the more we receive; the more we sacrifice, the more God blesses. **This is why the submissive mind leads to joy; it makes us more like Christ.** This means sharing His joy as we also share in His sufferings. Of course, when love is the motive (Phil. 2:1), sacrifice is never measured or mentioned. The person who constantly talks about his sacrifices does not have the submissive mind.

Is it costing you anything to be a Christian?

Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him **the name that is above every name**, so that at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

Romans 14:10-11 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "**As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.**"

This is the final test ... **does our actions and attitudes
Glorify God?**

This, of course, is the great goal of all that we do—to glorify God. Paul warns us against “vainglory” in Philippians 2:3. The kind of rivalry that pits Christian against Christian and ministry against ministry is not spiritual, nor is it satisfying. It is vain, empty.

Jesus humbled Himself for others, and God highly exalted Him; and the result of this exaltation is glory to God.

The whole purpose of Christ's humiliation and exaltation **is the glory of God** (Phil. 2:11). As Jesus faced the cross, the glory of the Father was uppermost in His mind, "**Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee**" (John 17:1). In fact, He has given this glory to us (John 17:22), and one day we shall share it with Him in heaven (John 17:24; see Rom. 8:28–30). The work of salvation is much greater and grander than simply the salvation of a lost soul, as wonderful as that is. **Our salvation has as its ultimate purpose the glory of God** (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14).

The person with the submissive mind, as he lives for others, must expect sacrifice and service; but in the end, it is going to lead to glory. “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (1 Peter 5:6). Joseph suffered and served for thirteen years; but then God exalted him and made him the second ruler of Egypt. David was anointed king when he was but a youth. He experienced years of hardship and suffering, but at the right time, God exalted him as king of Israel.

The joy of the submissive mind comes not only from helping others, and sharing in the fellowship of Christ's sufferings (Phil. 3:10), but primarily from the knowledge that we are **glorifying God**. We are letting our light shine through our good works, and this glorifies the Father in heaven (Matt. 5:16).

We may not see the glory today, but we shall see it when Jesus comes and rewards His faithful servants.

WORD FROM THE LORD

“My children, the time has come that I have been **warning you about**. Yet my warnings have gone unnoticed. The earth is about to experience the greatest shaking you will ever have gone through. My heart grieves over the loss soon to come, on the multitudes of my children that will never reside with me in heaven.

Yet the **warnings continue to fall upon deaf ears**. Those that have recently been calling upon My name will be given the chance to reside with Me eternally.

Children **make your choices wisely** as truly your eternal life depends upon it. Time is no more, and the ark of My safety will soon be closed fully. **And much, much pain and suffering will befall those that do not seek Me.** Children **I wish none should perish.** Call upon the name above all names, 'JESUS'! I so love you children, but you have free will and **you must make your own choices!"**

Joshua 24:15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, **choose this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."**

Only Trust Him

Hymn 629

