

Philippians 2 – 6 November 2022

“The Exaltation Of Humility”

Introduction

*Remember this is 1 of 4 Prison letters written late in Paul’s life circa 61AD

*From Chap 1 we’ve seen that all Paul’s interested in at this stage of his life is:

*#1 – Fellowship with believers

*#2 – Advancing the Gospel

*In talking about discernment & spiritual understanding, Paul told the Corinthians (2:16) “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

*To advance the Gospel we must have the mind of Christ – today we see the meek humility of Jesus

***Let’s look at 4 principles of humility**

1st principle of humility: Self-promotion is vain and empty (Vs 1-4)

Read Vs 1-2

1. If you truly want to bring me love & fellowship...
2. If you truly want to show me your tender mercy...then *be unity together in love*

Read Vs 3a

1. The opposite of humility is to be promoting & bragging about ourselves...this is worthless!
2. Don't need self-esteem, we need Christ-esteem
 - a. Read Luke 16:14-15 – Abominable esteem
 - b. Teach our sons & daughter their value is found in being created in God's image & that they can be born-again becoming His children

Read Vs 3b-4

1. Humility w/i self means *promotion of others*
2. This's the definition of biblical *koinonia*
 - a. Willing & able to share at moment's notice
 - b. Helping others in place of yourself

2nd principle of humility: Jesus humbled Himself from highest to lowest position (Vs 5-11)

Read Vs 5-8

1. Jesus is the epitome of humility & meekness
2. He's the ultimate example of promoting others
 - a. Vs 6 – II Cor 4:4 & Col 1:15 says that He's the very image (or icon) of God
 - i. Jesus' enemies knew He claimed to be the same as God (Read John 5:18)
 - b. Vs 7 – 'No reputation' to be made neutral
 - i. Read Isa 53:2 – No beauty to win our hearts
 - ii. Jesus didn't just descend to earth to be the king of man, but to be the lowest of man
 - c. Vs 8 – He took on the form (shape) & fashion (external condition) of a man
 - i. Humbled is same word as verse 3
 - ii. Humility brings submission to higher power
 - iii. Jesus' was perfect submission (willing to die)
3. Jesus is epitome of descending from highest possible position to the lower possible position

Read Vs 9

1. How high is His name?
 - a. Read John 1:14 – Word became flesh
 - b. Read Psm 138:2 – God’s magnified His Word above His name
2. A name this high will be blasphemed often

Read Vs 10

1. Every creation of God has one of 3 homes
2. Angel, humans, demons will all bow to Jesus

Read Vs 11

1. After we see & have full proof (fool proof) that Jesus is the center of creation, all will confess Him
 - a. That’s not a confession that will change anyone’s destiny or final home
 - b. Read Matt 10:32-33 – Confession of Jesus b4 men is proof you’ve placed faith in Christ
2. So humility has it’s reward...
 - a. It did for Jesus and it will for us

3rd principle of humility: Allow God to work humility in & thru us (Vs 12-18)

Read Vs 12

1. Not 'work for salvation', but work thru salvation'
2. Fully work out this principle of a humble walk in your own Christian life
3. We're the ones to put the effort into believing humility is way to exaltation (Read Jam 4:6)
 - a. Christians labor for many things
 - i. Labor to enter His rest (Heb 4:11)
 - ii. Labor to show humility (Phil 2)
 - iii. Labor to be acceptable for rewards (II Cor 5)

Read Vs 13

1. Since we are God's workmanship (Eph 6) we must yield to His Spirit (Rom 6) & allow Him to do the work in us without fighting against Him
 - a. Read Matt 11:28-30 – Take My yoke...

Read Vs 14-15

1. Endure hardness w/ humility so we can be seen as good examples of Jesus to the world

Read Vs 16

1. Humility doesn't mean we should compromise the truth of the Word of God – we stand on it

Read Vs 17-18

1. The rejoicing is that Paul completed the work given to him of the Lord faithfully
2. Matt 5:16 – We preach & live the Word of God so they'll glorify our God
3. Then our work won't have been in vain & we'll hear Matt 25:21

4th principle of humility: Humility will cost you something (Vs 19-30)

Read Vs 19-21

1. Timothy is likeminded. He has this humble mind, like Christ, promotes others above himself
2. *Men will naturally advance their own self, it's a rare thing to have a Timothy in your life*

Read Vs 22-24

1. Paul intends to send Timothy once he has an idea what will become of himself
2. Even himself coming, if the Lord allows

Read Vs 25-27

1. The great personal risk of this journey for Epaphroditus is an example of humility
 - a. He sacrificed himself for the benefit of Paul
2. If he had died it would have been sorrowful
 - a. When a Christian dies, there is real sorrow, but it's different than that of unbelievers
 - b. Read I Thes 4:13 – We've hope of resurrection

Read Vs 28-30

1. They should honor him for his selfless service to Paul and the Philippian church
2. This is what God promises, that when we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, He will exalt us in due time (Read I Pet 5:6)

Conclusion

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation, old things are passed away, behold all things are new.

Be transformed by the renewing of our minds, to have the mind of Christ and His humility

1. **Self-promotion is vain & empty**
 - a. Don't need self-esteem, but Christ-esteem
 - b. Seek 1st His kingdom & all the things we need shall be added unto us
2. **Jesus humbled Himself from highest to lowest position**
 - a. Look to Jesus example
 - b. For the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame & set now exalted
3. **Allow God to work humility in and thru us**
 - a. We drive ahead, but it's by HIS Spirit
4. **Humility will cost you something**
 - a. We may risk our temporary health, money, or reputation among men but Jesus is worthy it