

Christians & Culture

Philippians 2: 9-11

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

10

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11

and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

2 Corinthians 4:4

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Timothy 4: 1-4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: **2** Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. **3** For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. **4** They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

In our culture, the greatest virtue is tolerance, while the greatest sin is to disagree with someone's choices.

Challenges for the Church:

When is it okay, loving and right to disagree with someone?

How do you disagree with someone and still treat them with respect and honor as people who are made in the image of God?

How do you love people, in spite of their choices, and not endorse their choices?

How do we lovingly stand against ideas that are wrong, even harmful?

if the trumpet does not sound a clear
call, who will get ready for battle?

Life is Short

6 A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

God's Truth is Eternal

8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

Proclaim God's Truth

9 You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

He is God, I am Not

10 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. **11** He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. **12** Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? **13** Who can fathom the Spirit^[d] of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counselor? **14** Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding? **15** Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust. **16** Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires, nor its animals enough for burnt offerings. **17** Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing. **18** With whom, then, will you compare God? To what image will you liken him? **19** As for an idol, a metalworker casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it.

He is God, I am Not

20 A person too poor to present such an offering selects wood that will not rot; they look for a skilled worker to set up an idol that will not topple **21** Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? **22** He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. **23** He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. **24** No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. **25** "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. **26** Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Hope is Found only in God

27 Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God”? **28** Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. **29** He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. **30** Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; **31** but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

You cannot find hope in a
God of your own making -
That's not God.

Are you seeking the God
who is or the God you
want?

2 Truths:

- 1) God is compassionate and He loves every individual.
- 2) God's truth does not change.

How do we change culture?
Revival in the Church

Are you seeking the God
who is or the God you want?