

Philippians

CHAPTER 2:5-11

Lesson 6

Philippians chapter one revealed to us the commitment and resulting behavior of the apostle Paul. This week we will study the Inspiration behind Paul's actions, our Lord Jesus Christ. These few verses summarize what was involved in our Lord's coming. There is no other passage in Scripture where both the majesty and humility of Jesus are more powerfully described. May you be brought to your knees in adoration of the King of kings and Lord of lords who emptied Himself to become man to pay the price for your salvation. Truly, He is worthy of our worship.

Observation: Read Philippians 2

1. The central focus of the book of Philippians is Jesus Christ. As we study the topics of unity and joy, we discover that Jesus not only set an example of these things, but also has enabled us to have the power to appropriate them in our lives. Because of Him, they do not have to be unattainable desires, but can be a reality in the life of every Christian. Using your Observation Worksheet for Chapter Two, mark each reference to Jesus Christ (*Jesus, Christ, Lord*, and any other personal pronouns which refer to Him such as *Him, He, Who, His, Himself*).
 - a. Using the charts supplied, make a list of what the chapter reveals about Jesus Christ (find each reference you marked and record what it says about Jesus Christ). Be sure to record the verse number in parenthesis at the right of each item in your list. As you list each point, use at least one word from the text. We have provided the first item for your list below.
 1. There is consolation in Him (1)
2. Often in Scripture, it is hard to differentiate between God the Father and Jesus Christ. Most of the references in chapter two are clearly God the Father or Jesus Christ. Mark each reference to God and any related personal pronouns.
 - a. Make a list of what chapter two declares about God.
 1. Christ is equal with Him (6)

3. There is one verse in chapter two that mentions the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity. Often, we think a spirit is like a wind or an essence, but the Holy Spirit is a person. Mark the reference and record what it says about Him.
4. From your lists, share something that is especially meaningful to you.

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
- 2 Corinthians 13:14 NLT

Observation: Philippians 2:5-11

1. Philippians 2:5-11 is one of the greatest passages in the Word of God on the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ. The doctrine of Incarnation teaches that God became man; that Christ was God in the flesh. Share your impressions as you read these verses.
2. How do the verses in this section relate to the prior verses in Philippians 2:1-4?
3. What do these verses clearly state about Jesus?

Read Philippians 2:5

1. One of the key words in Philippians 2:1-4 is *mind*. Paul exhorted believers to be *like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind; to esteem others in lowliness of mind*. What does he write about the *mind* in Philippians 2:5?

- a. Write this verse in your own words.

2. Sometimes we think of Christ's life here on earth as so beyond what we are capable of following that we don't even try. What do the following verses say that contradict this kind of thinking:

1 Peter 2:21

1 John 2:6

3. Jesus Christ, even while He inhabited a body of flesh on earth, did not sin. We, on the other hand, have and continue to fall very short of sinlessness. What do you think it means to *let His mind be in you* or *to walk as He walked*?

Philippians 2:6-8

1. Philippians 2:5-11 has been referred to as the *Kenosis* passage. This title comes from the Greek expression that is translated *made Himself of no reputation* in verse 7. The expression really means *emptied Himself*. What does this passage teach about Christ before He became a man?

- a. What did He do in order to become (or when He became) man?

2. The Bible clearly proclaims the deity of Jesus Christ. Verify this truth using these verses:

Matthew 1:23

John 1:1,14

John 17:5

1 Timothy 3:16

3. Think for a moment about what it must have been like for Jesus to leave His position in heaven and take on a body of flesh on earth. List a few of the changes Jesus willingly subjected Himself to.

4. According to Philippians 2:8, what attitude did Jesus have?

- a. Describe an attitude of humility.

- b. How does Christ's example of humility challenge you?

5. What was Christ's supreme act of obedience? Philippians 2:8

- a. Why was it necessary for Jesus to die? (See Galatians 1:4, Titus 2:14, 1 Peter 2:24, 1 Peter 3:18)

- b. Christ's act of obedience changed everything. Reflect on just a few of the things that are different in your life because of Christ.

Jesus' coming is the final unquestionable proof that God cares.

Philippians 2:9-11

1. In this passage, we transition from the humility of Christ to His exaltation. The suffering that Christ endured did not come easy for Him. Jesus, *...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.* (Hebrews 12:2). Describe some of the shame and humiliation that Jesus endured.

Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.

2. From Philippians 2:9-11, what are the ways God will exalt Christ?

3. God has given Christ *the name which is above every name*. The name *Jesus* means "Jehovah has become our salvation". What other names or attributes of Christ can you think of that describe Him and Him alone?

- a. According to Philippians 2:10,11, what will one day happen *at the name of Jesus*?

Challenge: Look up the word *confess* and define it as it is used in Philippians 2:11.

b. *Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me. Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath* (Isaiah 45:21-23). Jesus Christ **is** Lord. He **is** Creator. He **is** majesty. He **is** King of kings and Lord of lords. When you think about bowing to His Lordship, what reaction do you have?

1.) What is the difference between confessing Jesus as Savior and confessing Him as Lord?

2.) What inspires you to bow to His Lordship?

4. The last phrase of Philippians 2:11 reveals the result of man's admission of Christ's Lordship. What is it?

a. Notice the consistency of this goal in the life of Paul, the other apostles, and even Jesus. In your own words, describe what it means to live a life with the goal of glorifying God.

Review: Read Philippians 2:5-11

1. How has studying Philippians 2:5-11 impacted you?

*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise,
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

- 1 Timothy 1:17