

Bible Study. Philippians Ch. 2

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: The Christ Hymn of Philippians (2:5-11) – from H.B Charles, Jr.

Scholars argue that it records an actual hymn that was sung in worship by the early church... The supreme example of the Lord Jesus is gloriously celebrated. Verse 5 says, "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus." If you truly want to know what it means to humble yourself, look at Jesus and adopt his mindset. Verses 6-11 explain the mind of Christ. This explanation of the selfless humility of Christ simultaneously explains the majesty of Christ. This text is one of the most important Christological passages in the New Testament. It records a vital statement about the divine nature, redemptive work, and sovereign authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. The text makes this statement about Jesus Christ in two parts.

- a. The Humiliation of Christ (vv. 6-8)
- b. The Exaltation of Christ (vv. 9-11)

If you have already received Christ as Savior and Lord, you can fulfill the purpose of the humiliation and exaltation of Christ: the glory of God. And verse 11 says, "every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

3. Intro II: Two Other Christ Hymns in the New Testament

- a. Colossians 1:15-20
- b. 1 Peter 3:18-22

4. Read Philippians Ch. 2

5. Discussion

- a. How do you understand verse 1 with "if there is"?
- b. Verse 6 implies Jesus Christ's pre-existence. Do you know any other bible passage that talks about Jesus' pre-existence?
- c. How do you understand "emptying himself" in verse 7?
- d. In this passage, how shall we understand the cross? [Marcus Tullius Cicero (B.C 106-43), the Roman Politician once said, "Even if death is set before us, we may die in freedom. But the executioner, the veiling of heads, and the very word "cross," let them all be far removed from not only the bodies of Roman citizens but even from their thoughts, their eyes, and their ears. The results and suffering...are unworthy of a Roman citizen and a free man."]

- e. Can you summarize Jesus Christ's humility in verses 6-8?
- f. How do you understand "in heaven, on earth, and under the earth" in verse 10?
- g. Can you summarize Jesus Christ's exaltation in verses 9-11?
- h. Writing the Christ Hymn, what do you think Paul expected from the Philippians?
- i. Can you find out any theological topic in verses 12 and 13?
- j. Reading by verse 18, how shall we understand Christian commitment?
- k. How is Timothy described in verses 19-24?
- l. How can we imagine the man named "Epaphroditus"?

6. Closing Prayer