

HUMBLING HIMSELF

Isaiah 45:21-45; Philippians 2:1-11 / Psalm 22:1-21

I. The Christian Life is a Good One – But It Is Unlike the World

A. The Biblical Christian asks *What is your only comfort, in life and in death?* The answer returns: That I belong - body and soul, in life and in death - not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of His own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that He protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit His purpose for my salvation. Therefore, ***by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.***

B. Paul directs believers to act on the realities of the Christian faith. “If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, ***if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.***” (PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2)

C. The church is a place for passing around the joyful life. “***That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.***” (1 JOHN 1:3-4)

D. The church is a place for humility, not for scrambling to the top. “***Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.***” (PHILIPPIANS 2:3)

E. Christians assume responsibility for the entire church. “***Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.***” (PHILIPPIANS 2:4)

F. Compassionate people enter into each other’s lives. “***Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.***” (ROMANS 12:15)

II. Christians Cultivate the Mind of Christ

A. Christ sets an astounding example of concern for others. “***Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:***” (PHILIPPIANS 2:5-6)

B. The Son of God became the Son of Man to reach sinners. “***But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:***” (PHILIPPIANS 2:7)

C. God became the SUFFERING SERVANT in Christ. “***For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.***” (ISAIAH 53:2-3)

D. Christ voluntarily went to the cross to satisfy eternal justice. “***And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***” (PHILIPPIANS 2:8)

On whom but God can we rely,
The Lord our God who reigns on high,
Who condescends to see and know
The things of heaven and earth below? [from Psalm 113]

E. For Christ, even the cross was worth the pain because He could see the end result; believers must learn to see beyond the struggle into the future. “Looking unto *Jesus* the author and finisher of *our* faith; *who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame*, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (HEBREWS 12:2)

III. God the Father Rewarded Christ's Humility

A. When Christ humbled Himself, the Father raised Him. “*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him*, and given him a name which is above every name:” (PHILIPPIANS 2:9)

B. Because He first went to the cross and on to hell, all reality will now acknowledge Him. “That *at the name of Jesus every knee should bow*, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;” (PHILIPPIANS 2:10)

C. Nothing will escape the ultimate order of Christ. “And *that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*, to the glory of God the Father.” (PHILIPPIANS 2:11)

D. The GOLDEN AGE has begun and it will never end. “*Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end*, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and *to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth* even for ever. *The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*” (ISAIAH 9:7)

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