

EXPERIENCING, ENJOYING, AND EXPRESSING CHRIST (3)

Training Outlines

Message Two

Knowing and Taking Christ as Our Pattern

RK Hymns: 505, 132

Scripture Reading: Phil. 2:5-11

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
Phil 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
Phil 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

I. In order to experience Christ and live Christ, we must know Him as our pattern and take Him as our pattern—Phil. 2:5-11:

Phil 2:5~11 be omitted.

A. In 2:5-11 Paul presents Christ as the pattern; we need to have this pattern infused into us.

Phil 2:5~11 be omitted.

B. The pattern of the Christian life is the God-man Savior who emptied Himself and humbled Himself and who has been exalted and glorified by God—vv. 6-9:

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

1. Although the Lord was equal with God, He did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped and retained; He emptied Himself, laying aside what He possessed—the form of God—vv. 6-7a.

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

Phil 2:7a But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, ...

2. In His incarnation the Lord did not alter His divine nature; He changed only His outward expression from the form of God to the form of a slave—v. 7.

Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

3. The Lord became “in the likeness of men”—vv. 7b-8a:

Phil 2:7b ... becoming in the likeness of men;

Phil 2:8a And being found in fashion as a man, ...

a. *The form of God* implies the inward reality of Christ’s deity; *the likeness of men* denotes the outward appearance of His humanity

b. He appeared to men as a man outwardly, but as God, He had the reality of deity inwardly.

c. Christ entered into the condition of humanity, and He was found in fashion as a

man.

4. Christ humbled Himself by becoming obedient even unto death—the death of the cross—v. 8b:

Phil 2:8b ... He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

- a. Humbling Himself was a further step in emptying Himself.
- b. Christ's self-humbling manifested His self-emptying.
- c. The death of the cross was the climax of Christ's humiliation—Acts 8:33; Phil. 3:21.

Acts 8:33 In His humiliation His judgment was taken away. Who shall declare His generation? For His life is taken away from the earth."

Phil 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.

5. The Lord humbled Himself to the uttermost, but God exalted Him to the highest peak and bestowed on Him "the name which is above every name"—2:9:

Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

- a. God has exalted Jesus, a real man, to be the Lord of all—Acts 2:32-33; 5:31.

Acts 2:32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we all are witnesses.

Acts 2:33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear.

Acts 5:31 This One God has exalted to His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

- b. This exaltation of Christ was the manifestation of resurrection power.

- c. The highest name in the universe, the greatest name, is the name of Jesus:

- 1) The name is the expression of the sum total of what the Lord Jesus is in His person and work.

- 2) *In the name of Jesus* means in the sphere and element of all that the Lord is—Phil. 2:10.

Phil 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

- d. The result of our confessing that Jesus is Lord is that God the Father is glorified; this is the great end of all that Christ is and has done in His person and work—v. 11; 1 Cor. 15:24-28.

Phil 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

1 Cor 15:24 Then the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to His God and Father, once He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

1 Cor 15:25 For He must reign until God puts all His enemies under His feet.

1 Cor 15:26 Death, the last enemy, is being abolished.

1 Cor 15:27 For He has subjected all things under His feet. But when He says that all things are subjected, it is evident that all things are except Him who has subjected all things to Him.

1 Cor 15:28 And when all things have been subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to Him who has subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all.

- C. The principle of this pattern is that someone with the highest life and position would be willing to live in a lowly way.

II. Christ as our pattern is not only objective but also subjective and experiential—Phil. 2:5, 12-13:

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

- Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
- Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
- A. The One who set up the pattern and who Himself is the pattern is now operating within us as the indwelling God—v. 13.
 Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
- B. The principle of Christ as the inward pattern for our living is that even if we have the highest standard or the highest position, we should not grasp it.
- C. We need to be partners with Christ in His human living, especially in His emptying and humbling Himself and in His not grasping equality with God as a treasure—vv. 6-7.
 Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
 Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
- D. The Christ who is our pattern is now the life within us—Col. 3:4:
 Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
1. We have a life in us that is a self-emptying and self-humbling life; this life never grasps at something as a treasure but is always willing to lay aside position and title.
 2. We have Christ crucified as our pattern, and this pattern is the crucified life within us—Gal. 2:20:
 Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
 - a. The steps of Christ's humiliation in Philippians 2:5-8 are all aspects of the crucified life lived out in a full way.
 Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
 Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
 Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
 Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
 - b. When we live Christ, we live the One who is the pattern of a crucified life—1:21a.
 Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...
 3. Taking the crucified life as our pattern opens the gate for resurrection and brings us into the power of resurrection—3:10:
 Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
 - a. By living a crucified life, we can experience the power of resurrection that exalted Christ to the highest peak in the universe—Eph. 1:19-22.
 Eph 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,
 Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
 Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
 Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
 - b. The highest life on earth is the crucified life; whenever we live a crucified life, God will bring us into the power of resurrection.
 4. Christ should be exalted not only objectively in the universe but also subjectively in our daily life—Phil. 2:9:
 Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which

- is above every name,
- a. Christ is exalted in us when we take Him as the crucified life to be the pattern of our daily life.
 - b. The bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ is the power that exalts Christ—1:19.
Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

III. If we would take Christ as our pattern, we need to take Christ's mind as our mind—2:5:

- Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
- A. Paul not only took Christ as his living and expression outwardly but also took the mind of Christ as his mind inwardly—1 Cor. 2:16.
1 Cor 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord and will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.
 - B. For the mind of Christ to be in us means that this mind is something living; actually, the mind of Christ is Christ Himself, for the person of Christ is manifested in His mind.
 - C. We need to open ourselves and let "this mind" be in us—Phil. 2:5:
Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
 1. This refers to the considering in verse 3 and to the regarding in verse 4.
Phil 2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;
Phil 2:4 Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.
 2. This kind of thinking was in Christ when He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, and humbled Himself, being found in fashion as a man—vv. 7-8.
Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
 3. To have such a mind requires us to be one with Christ in His inward parts—1:8.
Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

IV. We need to know the Son's submission—2:5-11; Heb. 5:7-8:

- Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,
Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
Phil 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
Phil 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.
Heb 5:7 This One, in the days of His flesh, having offered up both petitions and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him who was able to save Him out of death and having been heard because of His piety,
Heb 5:8 Even though He was a Son, learned obedience from the things which He suffered.
- A. The Word of God tells us that the Lord Jesus and the Father are one—John 10:30.
John 10:30 I and the Father are one.
 - B. The Father and the Son are equal, equipotent, coexisting, and existing simultaneously.
 - C. Philippians 2:5-7 forms one section, and verses 8 through 11 form another section:
Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to

- be grasped,
 Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;
 Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
 Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
 Phil 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 Phil 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.
1. The first section is on Christ emptying Himself.
 2. The second section is on Christ humbling Himself in His humanity—v. 8.
 Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
- D. When the Lord came to the earth, He emptied Himself of the glory, power, position, and image of His deity.
- E. The Father became the representation of authority, and the Son became the representation of submission:
1. When the Lord came down to the earth, He dropped authority on the one hand and picked up submission on the other hand.
 2. He set His heart to become a slave, to be restricted in time and space as a man.
 3. The Lord humbled Himself, becoming obedient; the obedience in the Godhead is the most wonderful thing in the whole universe.
- F. We should submit to authority; this is a great matter.
- G. We need to have the mind in us which was in Christ Jesus—v. 5:
 Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
1. All of us should take the way of our Lord, taking His principle of submission as our principle of submission.
 2. Whoever knows this principle will realize that no sin is uglier than rebellion and that nothing is more important than submission—Jude 11; Rom. 1:5; 16:26.
 Jude 11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain and have rushed out in the error of Balaam for reward and have perished in the rebellion of Korah.
 Rom 1:5 Through whom we have received grace and apostleship unto the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles on behalf of His name,
 Rom 16:26 But has now been manifested, and through the prophetic writings, according to the command of the eternal God, has been made known to all the Gentiles for the obedience of faith;
 3. Only when we see the principle of submission can we serve God—Matt. 4:10; 20:28; Acts 6:2; Rom. 1:9; 16:18; Heb. 12:28; Rev. 22:3.
 Matt 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, Go away, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve."
 Matt 20:28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.
 Acts 6:2 And the twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them and said, It is not fitting for us to forsake the word of God and serve tables.
 Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
 Rom 16:18 For such men do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own stomach, and through smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.
 Heb 12:28 Therefore receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us have grace, through which we may serve God well-pleasingly with piety and fear;
 Rev 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;
 4. God's principle can be maintained only by submitting in the way that the Lord submitted.

- H. Hebrews 5:8 tells us that the Lord's obedience was learned through suffering:
 Heb 5:8 Even though He was a Son, learned obedience from the things which He suffered.
1. Suffering brought obedience to Him.
 2. True submission is found when there is still obedience in spite of suffering.
 3. When the Lord came to the earth, He did not bring obedience with Him; rather, He learned it through sufferings.
- I. Salvation not only brings joy; it also brings submission—Rom. 1:5; 16:19, 26; Titus 3:1:
- Rom 1:5 Through whom we have received grace and apostleship unto the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles on behalf of His name,
- Rom 16:19 For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and guileless as to what is evil.
- Rom 16:26 But has now been manifested, and through the prophetic writings, according to the command of the eternal God, has been made known to all the Gentiles for the obedience of faith;
- Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready unto every good work,
1. Only the submissive ones will experience the fullness of salvation.
 2. We need to be submissive, even as the Lord was submissive.
 3. The Lord became the source of our salvation through obedience—Heb. 5:8-9.
 Heb 5:8 Even though He was a Son, learned obedience from the things which He suffered.
 Heb 5:9 And having been perfected, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,
 4. God saved us with the hope that we would submit to His will—Rev. 4:11.
 Rev 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.
- J. When one meets God's authority, submission is a simple matter, and knowing God's will is also a simple matter, because the Lord, who was submissive throughout His life, has already given us His life of submission—John 11:25.
 John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;